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DO YOU KNOW A COMPUTER THAT CAN

Inter/face



JOBSHARE SHUFFLE How to juggle motherhood and a career

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Why AMERICA is turning off TV

Treasury 'comes up with the dosh'

NHS charges ruled out by Dobson

By Ian Murray, Medical Correspondent

FRANK DOBSON has ruled out the introduction of health charges for the rest of this Parliament after securing an extra £3 billion for the National Health Service.

patients. Mr Dobson added that there would have been huge administrative costs in collecting small sums of money if patients had been expected to pay.

about 90 per cent capacity. The £320 million in the Budget targeted at waiting lists in England would theoretically be enough for up to 300,000 operations, but this depends on enough staff being found to carry them out and nurse patients until they recover.



Karen Pearce arrives in the hospital yesterday, and Keith Pople leaves after the evidence. She claimed he once appeared naked in her bedroom

Colonel bombarded ex-lover with sex calls

By Stephen Farrell

A FEMALE naval officer yesterday told how a high-ranking Army officer bombarded her with threatening and sexually-explicit letters and phone calls after the break-up of their two-and-a-half-year affair.

former commanding officer of 4 Regiment Army Air Corps, denies two military offences of conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline and scandalous conduct.

1993 when sharing a Whitehall office on the staff of the Admiral Sir Jock Slater, the former Vice-Chief of Defence Staff.

discussed reversing his vasectomy to have children together, even fantasising about having one auburn-haired girl they would name Alexandra.

Brown's tough line on pound

The Chancellor has dismissed calls for the Treasury to take action to curb the surging pound, insisting that exporters must join the Government in taking a long-term view.

Nuclear waste

Hazardous nuclear waste that was dumped down a shaft on the coast near the Dounreay plant in northern Scotland decades ago is to be retrieved using a robot, the Government announced.

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Campbell denies lying over Blair call to Prodi

By Philip Webster and Jill Sherman

TONY BLAIR'S official spokesman yesterday angrily rejected Tory accusations that he had lied on behalf of the Prime Minister over claims that he had acted to help the business interests of Rupert Murdoch.

Alastair Campbell lashed out at the Conservatives, the media in general and the BBC in particular at the way they were handling the affair.



attempt to buy a television network in Italy. Mr Campbell had throughout last week vehemently denied reports that Mr Blair had intervened to lobby on behalf of Mr Murdoch, chairman and chief executive of the News Corporation, parent company of The Times.

Nine suspended at Wormwood Scrubs

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

EIGHT prison officers and a senior manager at Wormwood Scrubs were suspended from duty yesterday over allegations of brutality and mistreatment of prisoners.

strengthen the management and supervision within the prison", Mr Pearson said.

Babies are 'safer' sleeping in the marital bed

By Alexandra Pream, Social Affairs Correspondent

RED-EYED parents who bring their mewling baby into bed with them can rest assured: the child is not at risk.

But a pioneering study by anthropologists at Durham University concludes that babies who are tucked up under the duvet with their parents are unlikely to be crushed, smothered or overcome by excessive heat.

is that the baby is likely to wake up more often. After watching 80 hours of videotape, the researchers concluded that mothers and babies fell into a kind of sleep pattern.

"A baby sleeping with its mother didn't appear to go into long, deep sleep patterns in the same way as a child sleeping on its own. It tended to move into light sleep and also woke to be breast-fed. This is important for babies because it is believed that sudden infant death is linked to deep sleep patterns," she said.

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# The bobbing pays off for a chubby-cheeked cherub

Andrew Reed looks fully ten years younger than the chubby-cheeked 33-year-old he is. Hair close-cropped in what his generation calls a Number Four cut, the dimple-faced MP for Loughborough resembles one of those cherubs on ancient maps, puffing the breeze from one corner of the canvas. His narrow victory last year in an apparently safe Tory seat must have surprised even his mother.

Educated (says Roth's *New MPs*) at the Riverside Infants' and Junior School, the young

aspirant they call Andy was slipped in *Red Pepper* as having "no politics whatever" — a keen Blairite, that is.

This had been a dreadful month for Andy. For three weeks he had been trying to get in at Prime Minister's Questions. We noticed him bobbing furiously up and down for a cumulative total of 90 minutes, face puckered with anticipation as Madam Speaker's glance fell to his left, to his right, behind and in front — but somehow never on him. Andy is not a big man, but he is visible. Why



Betty's blind spot? As March slipped by the young MP's spirits flagged.

Yesterday was the last day of the month. Andy had decided to be positive. If he was never to address the Prime Minister perhaps he should try the Deputy Prime Minister? So he arrived for Questions to John Prescott. If Reed resembles the cherub on the old map, Prescott resembles the sea-monster.

Wearing polished face and shiny silk tie, Andy began bobbing. Heart-rending to relate, reader, but still Miss Boothroyd failed to see him. After half an hour of this torture we moved to Transport Questions.

Mr Prescott took the first. It was not (let us be candid) earth-shattering — the "operation of the rail rolling-stock market" — but Andy was not proud. Up he leaped. She ignored him.

The second question, also

would do. The next question was hardly a sizzler: the role of the car in rural areas. But if it was not to be Blair on the future of Britain it would have to be Strang on rural motor-ing. He bobbed up again.

Miss Boothroyd stared in Andy Reed's general direction and said "Mr. er..."

"She forgot my name," thought crestfallen Andy.

"Er... Hanson." Mr Hanson was behind him.

Then she called a *Liberal Democrat* for heaven's sake! Then she looked at the Labour benches. Up bobbed Andy.

For a moment her eye seemed to light on him... and her gaze slewed to his left.

"Anne McGuire!" she called. After McGuire, Betty chose an Opposition spokesman, presumably to wrap things up.

To call Mr Reed woebegone understates. This was a suffering Reed. This was a broken Reed. Brow wreathed in frowns, his dimples quite gone, he shot a wounded glance at the Chair. The Opposition chappie frothed indignantly for a few minutes as Opposition chappies do.

Andy slumped on the bench. The exchange would be over now.

"Mr Reed," cooed Betty. Andy could not believe his ears! He leaped up, bubbling over with joyful news about joint partnerships with bus operators. We cannot quite remember what he said, but it sounded terribly positive.

And the minister was grateful. "My hon friend is absolutely right," he gushed.

He appeared to forget Andy's constituency. But a fellow can't expect everything at once.

## Chancellor rejects call to ease rise in pound

By Alasdair Murray and Janet Bush

THE Chancellor yesterday dismissed calls for the Treasury to take immediate action to curb the surging pound, insisting that exporters must join the Government in taking a long-term view of the currency.

Gordon Brown told the Treasury Select Committee that it would be wrong to give into "short-term pressures" which could lead to the return of the "stop-go economy". Responding to allegations from the Committee that he was taking a complacent view of damage being wreaked by the strong currency, Mr Brown insisted that only his policies would ultimately ensure "a stable and competitive level" for sterling.

"It is not just Government but industry and exporters who need to take a long-term view," he said. Mr Brown's comments came as Adair Turner, director general of the Confederation of British Industry, called on the Bank of England's monetary policy committee to make the pound a key element when it debates

rise in the pound could not be blamed on a failure to take tough action. The Chancellor claimed the Budget had removed £17 billion from the economy — the sharpest fiscal tightening since 1981 — helping to restore the economy to a more sustainable pattern of growth. He added that much of the rise in the pound, which began before Labour took office, was due to cyclical economic factors and market concern over EMU, rather than the rises in interest rates since the election.

John Redwood, Shadow President of the Board of Trade, claimed however that the Chancellor's policy of taxing savers and industry had caused the problem.

Mr Turner told CBI members in Manchester last night that exporters had done all they could in the short term to ride the rise in the pound and it was now up to the Bank of England to signal that interest rates have peaked and allow sterling to begin to fall from its recent highs. Mr Turner told the MPC faced a difficult dilemma and that there were no easy policy solutions to the current strength of the pound.

He said: "We are not calling for an immediate cut in rates but we are saying that the Bank needs to be aware of the significant impact of the pound on the export side of the economy." He urged the MPC to move as quickly as possible to shift financial market expectations for rates, signalling that the next move would be down rather than up in order to take some of the upward pressure off the pound.

Mr Turner said that he was not advocating early membership of the euro as a short-term measure to bring down the pound but merely restating the CBI's position that euro membership would be a positive step in the right conditions.

□ Kenneth Clarke, the former Chancellor, told a conference on economic and monetary union in Paris that no British government would take sterling into the European Exchange Rate Mechanism. He took issue with those who argue that the Maastricht Treaty requires countries wanting to join the euro to have participated in the ERM for two years.



Brown: denied being complacent on sterling

interest rates at its monthly meeting next week. Mr Turner added that in the longer term membership of the single currency may prove to be the only way to curb damaging swings in the value of the currency.

The pound yesterday continued its climb on the foreign exchanges to reach a fresh ten year peak. Against a basket of currencies, sterling's trade weighted index closed up 0.1 at 108.3, its highest level since April 1988. The pound also touched a near nine-year high against the German mark, climbing over DM3.10 before closing at DM3.0963.

Mr Brown vigorously defended last month's Budget at the hearing, insisting that the

Pound rises, page 23



Campbell: challenged journalists to prove that he had lied over telephone call

## Campbell goes on attack

Continued from page 1

to justify his use of the word "lies". Mr Maude claimed the official spokes-

man had issued a denial which was "not true" when asked about the Prime Minister's conversation with Signor Prodi.

But when he briefed journalists yesterday morning Mr Campbell said: "There is no single person in this room who can say that I lied over the story. If there is I would like them to say it now."

He was not challenged because there was no evidence that he had lied. Early last week he never confirmed or denied whether the television deal had been raised in the conversation. But he did deny that Mr Blair had intervened to lobby for Mr Murdoch, pointing out that the call had been initiated by Signor Prodi.

The row has intensified Mr Blair's difficulties as he attempts to overturn in the Commons the move backed by the Lords to ban price cutting

campaigns by national newspapers such as *The Times*.

The anti-Murdoch mood has hardened among Labour MPs. In February the Government was defeated in the Lords when 23 Labour peers backed a Liberal Democrat amendment to the Competition Bill to ban price-cutting. But the Government has pledged to reverse the amendment when the Bill comes to the Commons. Its second reading has now been delayed till the end of April.

## Regulator warns junk fax firm

By Raymond Snoddy, Media Editor

TELECOM regulators have acted against a company that trawls thousands of telephone numbers to find another victim for its unsolicited faxes.

Don Cruickshank, in his last day as director general of OfTel, the telecommunications regulator, yesterday told the British Fax Directory, a company using automated dialling systems to send large numbers of junk faxes, that it risks losing its licence.

Second Telecom, a related company, has been promoting tickets for the World Cup — provoking thousands of com-

plaints and a dressing-down. Callers find themselves locked in for nine minutes at premium rates. Missives from Second Telecom offer help obtaining World Cup tickets. The Football Association said most of the information was available from them or World Cup organisers.

British Fax calls whole ranges of numbers automatically to identify a fax machine which is then sent unsolicited faxes. OfTel says that a company using such automated searching without the written consent of recipients is in breach of its licence.

It is hoped that measures giving OfTel

the power to ban all junk faxes sent without permission will be contained in a European Union data protection directive expected in the summer.

ICSTIS previously upheld a complaint over a survey seeking public views on a Euro-referendum. The regulatory body was concerned about the duration of the premium calls.

Gordon Ritchie, managing director of British Fax, said yesterday that he would be consulting his lawyers over the OfTel decision, but noted that he already had all the fax numbers in London that he wanted — though not for the rest of the country.

## Blair talks to Adams as process enters final days

By Martin Fletcher

TONY BLAIR talked by telephone to Gerry Adams yesterday as he became more involved in the final push for a Northern Ireland agreement.

The Prime Minister also talked to George Mitchell, the chairman of the talks, and to Lord Alderdice, the Alliance party leader. He met John Hume, the Social Democratic and Labour Party leader, at Downing Street and will tonight hold talks there with Bertie Ahern, the Taoiseach.

A spokesman said Mr Blair was "getting his own feel" for how things were going at the Stormont talks, which must end tomorrow week.

Mr Adams, the Sinn Fein president, said that he had raised with Mr Blair an imminent United Nations report which will call for independent inquiries into the Royal Ulster Constabulary's alleged intimidation of lawyers representing paramilitary suspects, and into the 1989 murder of the republican lawyer Pat Finucane by loyalist gunmen allegedly acting in collusion with British security forces.

Mr Finucane defended suspected IRA members. He is believed to have been targeted by the Ulster Defence Association after being singled out by Brian Nelson, an army agent who had infiltrated the UDA. It has also been claimed that detectives had told loyalist detainees that they should be targeting lawyers who were sympathetic to the IRA.

Mr Adams said that the report by a Malaysian lawyer, for the UN Human Rights Commission, added to the argument that the RUC should be disbanded.

Mr Blair and Mr Mitchell reaffirmed their determination to reach an agreement by April 9. There is as yet no sign of a breakthrough. An important difference emerged yesterday over rival proposals for a Northern Ireland assembly by the Ulster Unionists and the SDLP.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

## Straw tackles abuses of police pensions

Police officers in their middle years who have lost interest in their jobs could be given a "bounty" to leave the force early, under reforms announced by Jack Straw. Unveiling consultation papers for the reform of pensions schemes for police and firefighters, the Home Secretary said that both services had unacceptably high sickness-pension claims.

The Home Secretary's decision to examine the bounty scheme follows a report by the Inspector of Constabulary on the costs of ill-health pensions. Research released yesterday shows that 45 per cent of all police pensions are paid out for early retirements because of ill health. Senior officers are concerned that some officers cling on until they can get full pensions on the ground of sickness after 26 years.

## Empty offices cost £500m

A committee of MPs will attack the Government today for allowing £500 million of public money to be spent on empty offices since 1990. The amount of office space involved is equivalent to a development 50 per cent bigger than Canary Wharf in East London. The MPs are also alarmed that it cost a further £260 million to dispose of them. David Davis, Tory chairman of the Commons Public Accounts Committee, called it a "wholly unacceptable" waste.

## £1.25m crash damages

A mother of three has been awarded record compensation of £1.25 million for whiplash injuries suffered when her stationary car was shunted from behind. The former nurse, from Manchester, who is 43 and does not want to be named, was left disabled when her spinal injuries developed into fibromyalgia, a chronic condition. The sum was agreed in an out-of-court settlement. The accident, which happened in 1988, jarred her spine and damaged her nervous system.

## Killer's mental health

The mother of the man accused of murdering judge's daughter Rachel McGrath has described to a court how she watched her son's mental health deteriorate. Kathleen Burton, of New Mills, Derbyshire, said that the behaviour of her son Nicholas began to change in 1991, following the break-up of a relationship with a girlfriend and his gradual use of hard drugs. Burton, 28, a sheet metal worker, denies murdering Miss McGrath.

## Forecourt screen ads

Television advertisers plan to target motorists on petrol station forecourts with strategically placed screens as they fill up. Forecourt Television plans to install 52in screens in 1,000 filling station forecourts. A pilot scheme in London and the South with the new advertising medium has produced a big increase in sales in forecourt shops with chocolate bars up 14.8 per cent, general confectionery 31 per cent and ice-cream 22 per cent.

## Lenska granted divorce

The actress Rula Lenska, right, has been granted a divorce from her actor husband Dennis Waterman, 50. The couple, who met on the set of the television series *Minder* in 1982, split up last May. Rula, 49, was granted a divorce at Somerset House on the grounds of her partner's unreasonable behaviour. Waterman, 50, was married for three years in his early 20s, to a schoolteacher.



## Bid to save D'Oyly Carte

MPs and peers will today join forces in a call for Government action to save the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company. The 120-year-old group specialising in Gilbert and Sullivan has mounting debts of more than £1 million and says it could be forced to close within months. Although most of its funding comes from the private sector, it has failed to secure permanent support from any public bodies.

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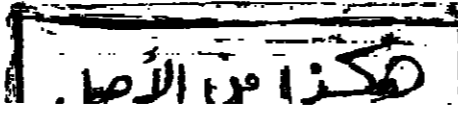
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# Wren tells of affair with colonel

Continued from page 1  
Colonel Pople abruptly ended the relationship, she claimed, in June 1996 on a first-class train journey to London where he was to buy shirts, suits and ties from Gieves and Hawkes to take up his new appointment at the Army Air Corps. He later moved to the base in Watisham, Suffolk, with his wife.

Although the officer said she was initially the more upset, throwing his clothes down the stairs at her flat in Nyewood, West Sussex, she claimed that they had sex the next day and he later regretted the decision, becoming angry when she resumed her relationship with Lieutenant McTear and plaguing her with persistent telephone calls and letters.

In November 1996, she claimed, they had one platonic evening together at her home where he cooked prawns before retiring to separate rooms. But, the court martial heard, next morning he appeared naked at her bedside door.

She told the hearing: "He came into my bedroom, lay down on my bed next to me and started to masturbate. He said 'get your pink friend out referring to a vibrator that he had bought for me.'"

She claimed he ordered her to arouse herself and she did and she was told to get rid of him, although she was shocked. A few days later, she claimed, Lieutenant Colonel Pople rang again demanding all his love letters back, announcing with military precision that he would arrive on her doorstep at 0800 on November 24. She said: "He said



Lieutenant Colonel Pople and Lieutenant Commander Pearce (circled) at a formal Whitehall meeting and, below right, his wife Brenda

that if I didn't accede to this he would do something to me so horrible that I wouldn't believe it even as he was doing it and it would leave me in tatters. He was clearly very angry, he frightened and intimidated me and I felt bullied and scared. I hadn't really come across him as this sort of person ever before."

In these earlier letters, the court martial heard, he wrote: "May you be the happiest girl on earth, dearest and most

wicked witch. My wonderful love for you, the only love of my life, you will be with me for ever decorated with spectacular memories and like Lear's Fool I will never stop hoping and waiting for the telephone to ring." His pet names also included "wonderful belegged one."

His mood when retrieving them was, by contrast, "aggressive" and hostile, she claimed, and he left promising to destroy them. She finally

complained to her senior officers about his alleged harassment a month later after an hour-long telephone call at her new office in Portsmouth where he called her after a drinking session.

The officer claimed Lieutenant Colonel Pople threatened to expose her latest relationship with Lieutenant McTear to three tabloid newspapers, to her friends and to a senior naval officer. "He said he hated me, he said that I was a

bitch, a liar a cheat and that I had to be taught a lesson. He kept repeating that I couldn't be allowed to treat men like this."

"He said he was going to write to the Second Sea Lord 'so you had better get to know the secretary to the Second Sea Lord, although you have probably already slept with him.' All the way through this he was laughing in what I can only describe as a 'joker-type' laugh, really intimidating and

frightening." Lieutenant Colonel Chris Armstrong, for the prosecution, said Pople was motivated throughout by "hatred of rejection."

Lieutenant Colonel Pople, his wife Brenda sitting opposite him throughout the evidence, sat erect before the five-member panel in his khaki uniform with an escort behind carrying his cap and leather belt. The hearing continues today.



## Move to control date-rape tablets

By RICHARD FORD  
HOME CORRESPONDENT

TOUGH new curbs are to be imposed on the "date rape" drug Rohypnol amid growing concern that women have been sexually attacked after consuming spiked drinks.

The tiny diamond-shaped purple tablet is so fast-acting that a woman given it would rarely remember anything of a subsequent assault.

Until three months ago Rohypnol was colourless when ground up but Roche, the manufacturers, changed its makeup so that it now releases a blue dye when dissolved. Rohypnol, known on the streets as Roofie, can induce a trance-like state within 15 minutes. It is tasteless and odourless.

From May 1, it will be a criminal offence to possess flunitrazepam, which is usually sold under its trade name of Rohypnol. Anyone convicted of possessing the drug without prescription faces a maximum penalty of two years' imprisonment, an unlimited fine or both.

Pharmacies and warehouses will be required to store the drug, prescribed as a sleeping tablet, more securely and import and export licences will also be required.

## Pupils go to aid of headmaster after assault

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

CHILDREN formed a human shield to protect their headmaster after he was punched to the ground and left in agony by an intruder.

Len Wild had raced out of his office to confront three men who were threatening teenage pupils in the playground at the Mitchell High School, Stoke-on-Trent. But it was the children who came to their headmaster's aid when one of the men hit Mr Wild in the face and he fell on flagstones in front of the school.

At least a dozen boys and girls, none older than 16, formed a protective ring around Mr Wild and his attacker fled. The injured headmaster, who is in his mid-50s, had an operation yesterday on his knee and will have to spend another week recovering in hospital.

Maurice Lewis, the chairman of governors, said: "When I heard about the attack, the image of Philip Lawrence flashed before my eyes." Mr Lawrence, a West London headmaster, was stabbed and killed by a burglar when he broke up a fight outside his school gates in 1995.

The attack on Mr Wild happened at lunchtime on Monday inside the school grounds. Police are still looking for the three men, all in their early 20s, who were caught on the school's security camera system.

Mr Lawrence's death and the Dunblane tragedy the following March were followed by a national debate about school safety. Many schools installed video cameras, security doors and fences. The Mitchell High School, a 500-pupil comprehensive, could not afford to fence in its six-acre grounds but bought cameras five years ago.

Mr Lewis said that two of the trespassers had run off

when Mr Wild came out to confront them, but the third squared up to him. "These three yobboes came onto the school premises and were threatening some pupils. The pupils were very frightened," said Mr Lewis.

"Mr Wild dashed out to protect the pupils, as I would expect him to do. Two of them ran off but the other decided to stand his ground. He punched Mr Wild in the face.

"The kids immediately encircled him to protect him from any further attack. Knowing the children, they would do that, and knowing Mr Wild, he would not think about himself. The first thing he would think about is the children — and conversely as soon as they saw Mr Wild was in trouble, they did the same. They were great."

The school spent £8,000 on a security camera system five years ago because its extensive grounds are used as a shortcut between estates. Senior teachers have walkie-talkies.

A school inspectors' report to be published today says: "While the extensive open campus is vulnerable to intrusion, security measures together with considerable community use of the school have reduced the problem."



Wild: had run out to confront intruders



Darren Steele: seemed happier recently

## Boy found hanged wrote of bullying

By PHILIP DELVES  
BROUGHTON

POLICE are to interview the classmates of a 15-year-old schoolboy who was found hanged in his bedroom over the weekend. Darren Steele, 15, left a three-page note detailing how and by whom he had allegedly been bullied.

Darren was a pupil at de Ferrers High School in Burton upon Trent and was due to take GCSEs this summer. He had seemed happier in recent months, even returning to sing in his local church choir. As it turned out, however, the bullying had never really stopped. On his way back from school on Friday, his family says he was threatened by two boys.

A spokesman for Staffordshire police said: "Discovered at the scene was a handwritten note on which he refers to instances of bullying by his peers." Darren's fellow pupils will be interviewed with the consent of their parents.

Michael York, the headmaster, said, yesterday: "The pupils and staff are devastated. We are helping the police in every way we can."

It is the second tragedy to hit the school in a fortnight. On March 15, Kevin Houston, a supply teacher, was found dead in his car, also after an apparent suicide.

## Body parts 'carried inside bin liners on Central Line'

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

UNSPUSPECTING passengers may have sat next to pieces of disembodied bodies as they were carried across London inside a rucksack during the rush hour on the Tube, it was alleged yesterday.

Preserved pieces of limbs, torso and heads in bin liners were carried on the Central Line from the Royal College of Surgeons to sculptor Anthony Noel Kelly's West London studio, Southwark Crown Court was told.

Up to 40 body parts were stored in tea chests at the flat before being used to make

exact copies of the anatomical specimens for gill-covered sculptures. Their bizarre journey emerged as Mr Kelly, 42, from Clapham, South London, was cross-examined by Andrew Campbell-Tiech, for the prosecution. The artist agreed that Niel Lindsay, a laboratory assistant at the RCS, often delivered specimens to his flat after work.

"Did you believe that was a particularly respectful way to transport body parts, in dustbin liners to an artist's studio?" Mr Campbell-Tiech asked.

"I know it sounds strange,

but they were not disrespectfully put into black bags. They were in transit to somewhere where they were going to be used with integrity," Mr Kelly said. He told the jury that the deliveries, for which he paid Mr Lindsay £400, stopped when the latter left his job and returned to South Africa. "I felt I had an alphabet of bodies so I could create pieces," he said.

Mr Kelly and Mr Lindsay, 25, both deny theft from the RCS. Mr Kelly denies one further count of handling stolen goods.

The trial continues.

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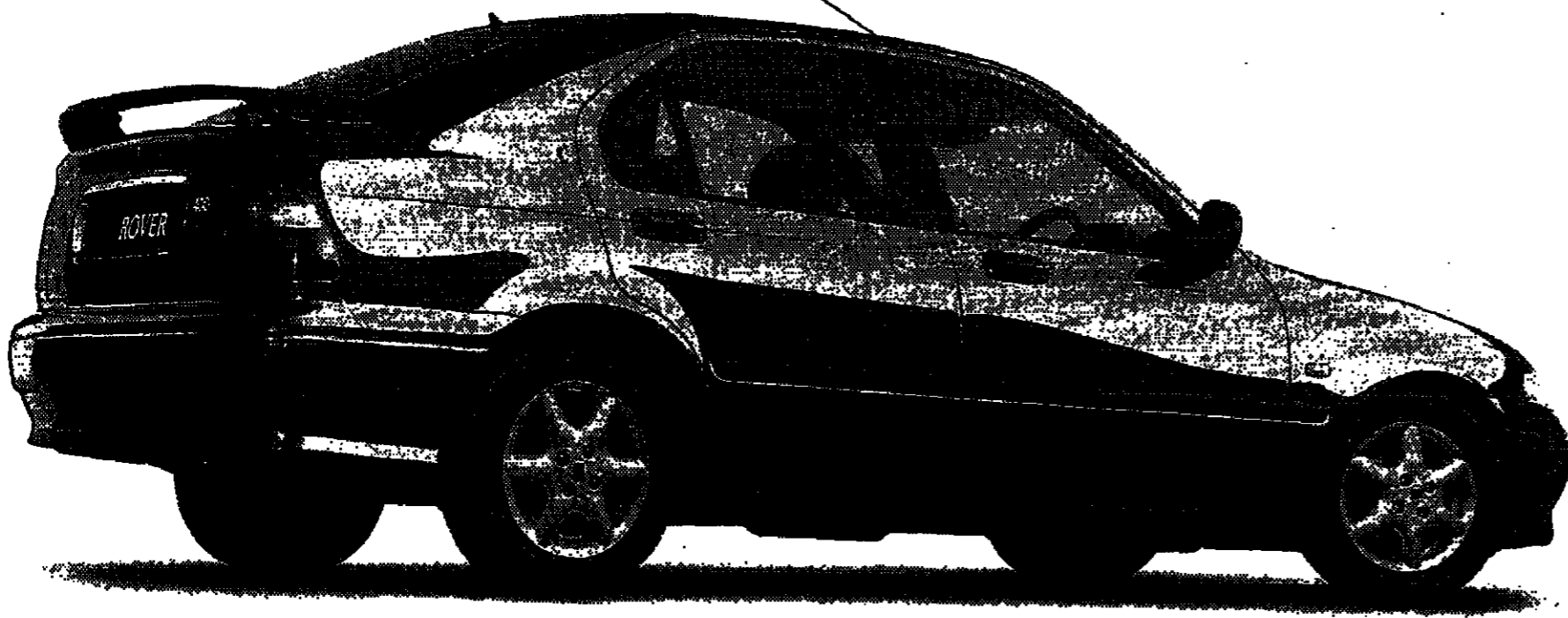
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# Pilot is hailed for soccer team crash-landing

## Leeds United manager shares the praise after players escape the burning aircraft, reports Paul Wilkinson

THE veteran pilot of an aircraft carrying the Leeds United football team was hailed a hero yesterday after he averted disaster by managing to crash-land his burning aircraft only seconds after it left the runway.

The team's assistant manager, David O'Leary, was also praised for his coolness in forcing open an emergency exit for players to escape, injuring his shoulder in the process.

Captain John Hackett, 61 and one of the oldest commercial airline pilots, told his passengers afterwards that if he had circled to make a fresh landing approach the aircraft, loaded with 15 tonnes of aviation fuel, would probably have blown up.

Instead he aborted the charter flight just 150ft off the ground after the starboard engine had exploded on take-off. He succeeded in getting the BAe 748 turbo-prop down only yards from the end of the runway. It ran into soft ground, breaking off the front wheel, and came to rest nose-down in the grass.

Gunner Halle, the club's



O'Leary: was the first to force open an exit

Norwegian international, praised the actions of the pilot and Mr O'Leary, who had been sitting next to the central exit. He said: "David kept everyone's spirits up. He was a real hero. I think everybody knew how serious it could have been. He was the first one to his feet and charged the exit so we could all get out safely. The flames were still burning fiercely when we climbed out. We all thought the plane was going to explode."

Mr O'Leary, a former

Arsenal player and Irish international, said: "There was a big explosion. We went up a bit and all of a sudden it was like a roller-coaster. We hit the ground with a big thud and I was bounced up and hit the ceiling. When you look at the plane, it's amazing we all got out."

As fire crews at Stansted Airport put out the flames, the 44 people on board escaped through emergency exits. Two suffered minor injuries.

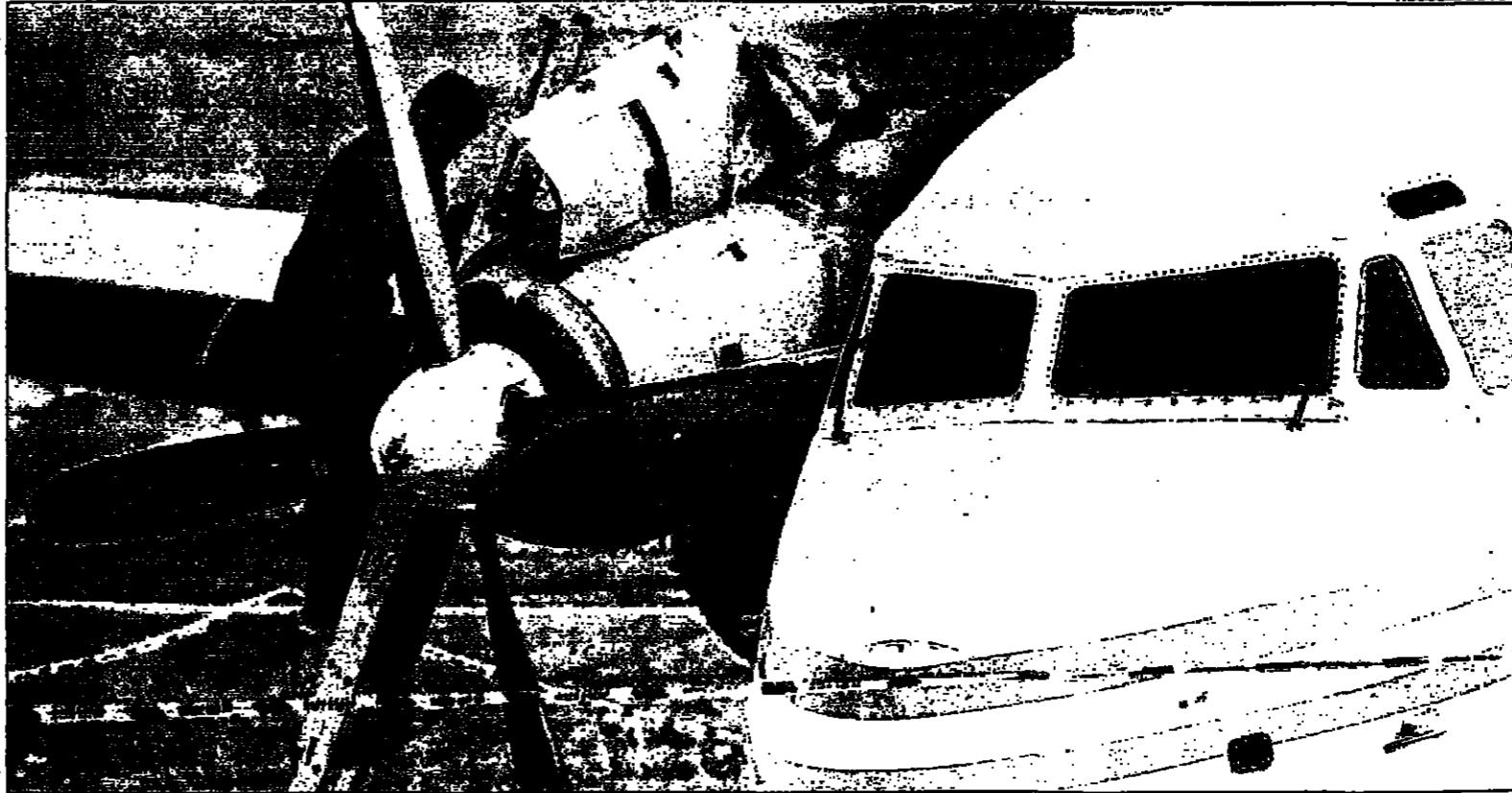
Captain Hackett is believed to be the most experienced 748 pilot in Britain. He has been with the aircraft's operators, Liverpool-based Emerald Airways, since it launched in 1990. Previously he had worked with Dan Air.

Yesterday he and his co-pilot Gary Lucas, and cabin crew Helen Dutton and Nicola Mies, were recovering from shock at their homes on Merseyside. An airline spokesman said: "They are all very badly shaken".

The incident happened as the Leeds team, worth a total transfer value of about £47 million, set off for Leeds/Bradford airport from Stansted early yesterday after its 3-0 defeat at West Ham the previous evening.

Afterwards people said the incident brought back memories of the Munich air disaster in February 1958 ago, when an aircraft carrying a victorious Manchester United team home from a European Cup quarter final in Belgrade slid off a slush-covered runway and crashed in flames. The crash killed 23 people, including eight United players.

Peter Ridsdale, 46, the Leeds chairman, said yesterday: "One of the players said, 'We have had a hell of a result tonight', and he wasn't talking about Upton Park.



Technicians inspect the burnt-out engine of the BAe 748 at Stansted airport, yesterday. The pilot managed to land the aircraft in soft grass



"I was sitting in the centre of the plane, and just as the wheels started to leave the ground I saw flames coming from the engine. A few seconds later there was a large explosion and the whole engine went up in flames.

"At that stage we were still climbing. Almost immediately a buzzer went off and a stewardess said we were going to make an emergency landing and would we please be braced. We knew we were coming down. The flames were getting worse.

"I could feel the heat on my right shoulder. You know the plane is full of fuel and you just hope you land before it explodes. The crew are heroes.

The pilot subsequently told me he wouldn't have had time to go round again. He reckoned 30 seconds longer and the plane would have been up in flames."

The passengers included 18 players, club officials and directors, corporate guests, journalists, a guest's teenage daughter and Mr Ridsdale's 13-year-old son, Matthew. George Graham, the Leeds manager, had stayed in London overnight.

One passenger, John Kennedy, from Pocklington, East Yorkshire, said: "David O'Leary acted very swiftly to get the first door open and the cabin crew were marvellous." A former colleague

described Mr Hackett as "a good pilot who always passed all his checks." Mike Nash, the former fleet manager of Dan Air's 748 series, said that Mr Hackett, who had worked for Dan Air from 1985 to 1990, had become a pilot relatively late, switching from a position as sales manager for a major airline to a new career as a first officer when he was in his late 30s.

Captain Hackett's wife, Diane, speaking on the doorstep of the couple's Staffordshire farmhouse, said: "I'm very relieved it has ended this way. We all know how dangerous it could have been. He is a very experienced and very calm man."

# Instant decision ignored textbook

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

CAPTAIN John Hackett was forced to ignore textbook instructions as he faced the risk of a calamitous mid-air explosion.

Even failure of a single engine would normally have allowed him to continue the take-off, put out a mayday alert and bank the aircraft round to land on the runway in the opposite direction.

Reports of an explosion and flames in the starboard engine at the point of take-off suggest that Captain Hackett had no such option. Within seconds of take-off, he took the drastic decision to "dump" his 748 turbo-prop.

With probably fewer than 200 yards of runway left, he had to land the plane heavily to bring it to a halt. In doing so, the plane lurched to its port side, but his action was enough to stop the Emerald Airways aircraft only yards from the end of the runway.

Passengers and crew escaped almost unscathed, without using manual emergency

chutes. Youthful members of the Leeds United party were able to jump from an emergency exit about 15ft above the ground.

Air accident inspectors were yesterday investigating reports from passengers that there was an unusually strong smell of fuel shortly before take-off.

Mick O'Brien, of Emerald Airways, said: "Shortly after take-off, at a height of approximately 150ft, the starboard engine failed and the pilot immediately landed the aircraft. The aircraft overshot the runway and the nose gear collapsed. Evacuation of all the passengers and crew took approximately 30 seconds. The pilot did extremely well to land the aircraft in a difficult situation. Members of the crew performed a textbook evacuation of the aircraft."

The 15-year-old aircraft, which has flown 17,200 hours, would have been expected to continue in service for at least another ten years.

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- Aircraft lands heavily on runway, lurching onto port side and skidding for yards
- Within 20 seconds, plane takes off. Passengers hear "explosion" in starboard engine
- 12.30am: Tower Sidesley 748 prepares for take-off

STANSTED AIRPORT

Aircraft comes to a halt off end of runway, nose collapsing into ground near perimeter road

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# Brother heard skipper's last words

## Reprieve given to A levels in minority languages

By JOHN O'LEARY  
EDUCATION EDITOR

THE brother of a fisherman who died with three others when their trawler sank described yesterday how they had talked by radio just moments before the boat went down.

Gordon Pattison, 36, giving evidence at the fatal accident inquiry at Aberdeen Sheriff Court, said he had been fishing on another trawler nearby when he spoke to his brother George, 38, the skipper of the *Westhaven*, by radio on March 10 last year. As they were talking, the nets became snagged.

Mr Pattison told the court: "He [George] said he had become fast on something on the seabed. I said to

An inquiry has been told of a radio call as a trawler sank, reports Shirley English

look on the charts to see if there were any wrecks nearby. He said there was nothing at all."

Mr Pattison said he had not been worried as trawlers' nets frequently got caught up during trips and usually freed themselves. However, he was unable to make contact with his brother again and 12 hours later he learned the *Westhaven* had gone down. His brother died, along with the first-mate Mark Hannah, 30, and crewmen Christopher Prouse, 23, and Alan Cunningham, 28.

Mr Pattison said his brother was

"quite a good skipper" but was still getting used to the boat which he bought in December 1996. He had decided to keep the vessel's original name *Westhaven* but had changed its registration number and registered it with the Marine Safety Agency between Christmas and New Year.

Earlier the court heard that a mix-up in the registration numbers of the emergency distress beacons led to hours of delay before a search was launched for the vessel.

Coastguards had received a dis-

stress call in the morning, but mistakenly thought it was coming from another vessel, also called *Westhaven*, fishing nearby.

Danny Buchan, skipper of the second *Westhaven* and former owner of the sunken vessel, said he was about 100 miles off the northeast coast of Scotland when he was radioed by coastguards who asked him to check whether his emergency beacon had gone off. He told them it was not transmitting.

The coastguards continued to receive a signal which they again

traced to Mr Buchan. He was told to disconnect his beacon, wrap it in tinfoil and put it in the engine room, but after doing so the coastguard continued to receive distress calls.

Mr Buchan, of Fraserburgh, claimed that between 1pm and 2pm he twice told the coastguard controller that he had sold his old boat, which had the same name.

Later that day, the coastguards told him they had found lifebelts marked *Westhaven*. When he confirmed that his lifebelts were still on board, a search was launched.

The *Westhaven* is believed to have sunk after its fishing gear became snagged on a pipeline. Yesterday sub-aqua video camera footage taken the day after the accident showed one of the metal trawl doors had become trapped behind the pipeline with its trawl chain underneath the structure.

Mark Lindsay, representing the Coastguard Agency and the Marine Safety Agency, asked Mr Buchan whether it was possible that he had informed coastguards he had sold his boat at 8.45pm rather than in the early afternoon, but Mr Buchan said he could not remember.

The inquiry continues.

A LEVELS in a dozen minority languages that were to be discontinued because of a shortage of candidates and examiners were reprieved yesterday after a deal between government advisers and the examining boards.

The languages include modern Hebrew and Greek, Bengali, Punjabi, Chinese and Japanese. Numbers taking the examinations had dwindled to fewer than 100 in some cases, but ethnic communities had lobbied to preserve courses as part of their culture.

After talks with the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA), three examining consortia have divided the languages between them and guaranteed to continue providing syllabuses. The QCA has launched an appeal for speakers of the languages to act as examiners or to join panels that set questions.

Nick Tate, chief executive of the QCA, said the agreement would secure the future of the examinations into the next decade. "Although the numbers involved are small, it is the mark of a civilised country that it seeks to protect the interests of minority groups keen to maintain their own traditions within society."

The smallest entries last year among the affected languages were 40 candidates taking Dutch and 51 taking modern Hebrew. The largest was 272 for modern Greek.

Under the new arrangements, the Assessment and Qualifications Alliance will offer Bengali, modern Hebrew, Punjabi and Polish; Edexcel will offer Arabic, Chinese, Greek and Japanese; and the Oxford and Cambridge and RSA will offer Dutch, Gujarati, Portuguese and Turkish.

The announcement was welcomed by Don Foster, for the Liberal Democrats, who had lobbied for Bengali in particular. Laurie Rosenberg, of the Board of Deputies for British Jews, said the safeguarding of Hebrew would give the Jewish community confidence that their religious and cultural needs were considered.

## Tobacco firms accused over low-tar brands

By MARK HENDERSON

TOBACCO companies have been promoting low-tar cigarettes as a "healthy option" for smokers for more than 20 years despite knowing they are no safer than conventional brands, anti-smoking campaigners said yesterday.

Companies such as Philip Morris and BAT discovered as early as 1975 that smokers "compensate" for low-tar cigarettes by inhaling more deeply or covering holes in filters, yet continued to advertise the health benefits of switching to a mild brand, according to documents obtained by ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) and the Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

Internal documents released during American litigation prove the companies played a "grotesque confidence trick" on millions of smokers who switched to low-tar brands rather than giving up, the campaigners said. Advertising was aimed at convincing smokers that mild cigarettes presented less risk.

A 1971 BAT document says: "Manufacturers are concentrating on the low TPM [tar] and Nicotine segment in order to create brands... which aim, in one way or another, to reassure the consumer that these brands are relatively more 'healthy' than orthodox blended cigarettes." Accord-

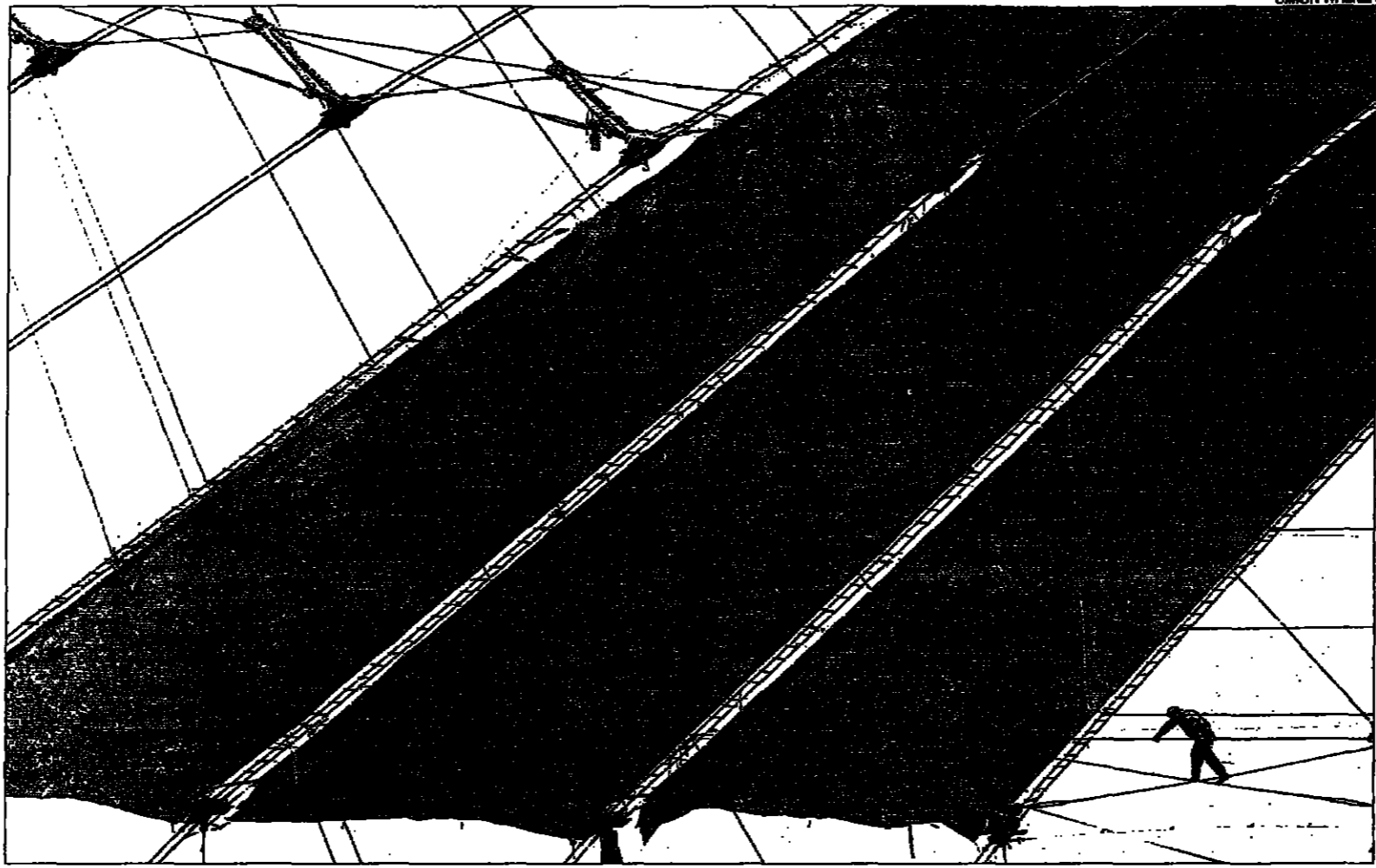
ing to another of the documents, Philip Morris knew in 1975 that Marlboro Lights smokers inhaled no less smoke than those who smoked regular Marlboros.

American research published last year blamed low-tar cigarettes that are inhaled more deeply for a rise in adenocarcinomas, a previously rare cancer that develops in peripheral parts of the lung.

Publicans hope to avert a California-style ban on smoking in public places by installing modern ventilation systems in every pub.

Pub industry groups met yesterday to discuss ways of "removing the smoke, not the smoker" to protect bar staff and customers from passive smoking. Organisers spoke of a "third way" between the free-for-all advocated by smoking apologists and the outright ban urged by medical and anti-tobacco groups.

Nick Bish, of the Association of Licensed Multiple Retailers, which represents 83 pub companies with 13,000 pubs and bars, said a ban would be unfair on the 47 per cent of pubgoers who smoke and unnecessary for health reasons. "The debate over passive smoking has ignored ventilation, which is disappointing because modern technology can tackle the problem," he said.



Weather permitting: a worker is silhouetted 150ft above the ground as the delicate task of roofing the Millennium Dome goes ahead

## Man and nature vie to raise the roof

WORKERS on the Millennium Dome were yesterday keeping a weather eye on the wind as they unfurled the Teflon coating which will form the roof (writes Dominic Kennedy). The operation, which should be completed by midsummer, depends heavily on how badly the weather batters the exposed peninsula in Greenwich,

south London, where gusts can reach 45mph. Daniel Ptacek, the UK general manager of Birdair, the construction firm which won the £14-million contract, said forecasts were being checked every two hours. If a high wind rose as the roof's 1.5 mm fabric was being laid, his men could secure the material in minutes, avoiding the

risk of damage or injury 150ft above the ground. Mr Ptacek was confident that the job could be done. "We have to deal with the weather," he said. "A lot depends on the type of wind. If it is a steady wind it is not as serious as if it is in gusts. If it is a cross-wind to our work it is different from a direct wind. Above 25mph we take certain precau-

tions. Above 35mph we take other precautions and maybe stop." Birdair, based in Buffalo, New York, won the contract to cover the roof with self-cleaning Teflon-coated glass yarn, which has a life of 25 years, after Greenpeace objected to an original plan to use PVC, which the environmentalists condemn.

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# Excess of drugs may be killing mental patients

SOME doctors may kill mental patients by overprescribing drugs needed to calm them, the President of the Royal College of Psychiatrists said yesterday.

"Some prescribing has been very inept and the wrong drug cocktails have been given," Robert Kendell said at the launch of the college's first guidelines on managing violence in the health service. "Deaths do occur but the issue is whether these drug overdoses or other illnesses are contributing to that."

"Emotional arousal is often involved and we cannot say with confidence that drugs do or do not contribute to them. That is a very unsatisfactory situation and we put proposals for research to the Department of Health but they said they had other priorities."

The dangers of overprescribing were raised by Nina Rideout, a schizophrenic patient who served on the working party that drew up the guidelines. "My hope is that these guidelines will cut the loss of life because of drug overdoses prescribed by doctors," she said.

The vast majority of mental patients were not violent, she said, and tended to do more harm to themselves than to the public. Violent behaviour could usually be managed without drugs and they should

**Ian Murray reports on worries that tranquilisers are prescribed too heavily**

be used only in moderation. "There are often human reasons for violent behaviour. In many wards there is a scandalous lack of privacy," she said. "It amazes me how you are expected to make a private telephone call."

Patients attending hospital for treatment were often left for long periods with nothing to do, no possibility of exercise, sitting with people they did not want to know. Patients who rejected treatment often had valid reasons.

Ms Rideout said: "Mental patients are normal human beings with their own failings, likes and dislikes and they need to be treated as human beings with dignity in privacy and a recognition of their cultural needs."

Dr Kendell said that the guidelines were drawn up because violence in hospitals had become commonplace.

"Staff in the NHS are now more likely to be assaulted than in any other industry," he said. "Thirty years ago the reverse was the case and doctors and nurses were the last people to be assaulted."

Against this background, psychiatric wards were more crowded than ever, with up to 120 per cent bed occupancy commonplace and 28 patients allocated to a ward with beds for only 24. The number of patients compulsorily detained had trebled since 1980 to 24,000.

Ben Thomas, a senior nurse adviser at Maudsley Hospital, South London, said there was a serious assault every three days in his hospital and at least one incident a day. This led to staff stress, absenteeism and recruitment difficulties, and the hospital was 100 nurses short.

The guidelines say patients should be treated in spacious, comfortable environments where staff talk openly with them and where the need for privacy is respected. There are hints on how to predict when a patient or relative is likely to become violent and on proper levels of prescribing.

Management of Inpatient Violence, Royal College of Psychiatrists, 17 Belgrave Square, London, SW1X 8PG (£20 incl p&g)



Dr Eremin with the reconstructed skull, made of clear resin, and the face of the mummy, below, on its coffin

## Human face of history



TECHNIQUES used to reconstruct murder victims' features have provided a mummy at the Royal Museum of Scotland with a face.

After hospital scanning equipment gave a picture of the body's bone structure, specialists were able to superimpose muscle tissue, allowing the likeness of the male mummy's face to be built up.

Dental experts were even able to tell that the mummy once had protruding front teeth. The reconstructed head,

made from a resin skull with features in terra-cotta, will now go on show at the museum.

Katherine Eremin, who managed the mummy project, said the main aim of the reconstruction was to establish how accurate the painting on the front of the coffin was to the real person. It would also help Scots to realise that mummies were not just the stuff of horror films.

"This work will show people that the Egyptians who were mummified were just an ancient race who went about their day-to-day duties and did many of the things we do on a daily basis," Dr Eremin said.

"It gives them a human face to look at behind the wrapping."

The museum has 12 other mummies and has taken scans of each with a view to more facial reconstructions.

The mummified body, which dates from the Roman period between 30BC and AD330, is believed to have been of an influential person who died in his late twenties.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

## Ashamed woman made up rape story

A woman who claimed that she had been gang-raped because she was ashamed of having sex with a man she hardly knew was sent to a young offenders' institution for two months.

Four men were arrested but Angela Brookhouse, 21, of Warrington, later told police that she had had sex voluntarily with one of them and the three others were not involved. Brookhouse admitted at Warrington Crown Court attempting to pervert the course of justice.

## Soccer remand

A man charged with murdering the 24-year-old Fulham football fan Matthew Fox was remanded in custody by Medway magistrates. Barry Cullen, 30, of Whitstable, Kent, was refused bail and is due to appear before magistrates again on April 7.

## Sea change

The Rev Charles Stewart becomes the first non-Anglican Chaplain of the Fleet today. The Church of Scotland minister took the Navy's top clerical post last year but was denied the title, established in 1876, pending a change in the Anglicans-only rule.

## £550,000 award

Daniel Hunt, 16, sole survivor of a car crash that killed his family, was awarded an agreed £550,000 in damages. Daniel, aged six at the time, suffered head injuries when a car driven by his father veered off a Belgian motorway and hit a concrete block.

## Circus charges

A former circus worker was charged with six counts of cruelty to elephants. Michael Gills, 64, of Shipton Bellinger, Hampshire, worked for Chipperfield Circus at its headquarters in Over Wallop, Hampshire. He was bailed until April 29.

## Attack by ram

A ram broke a farmer's leg in two places by butting him from behind. Jimmy Spence, 72, managed to drive his tractor to his farm at Horsington, Lincolnshire, and later underwent surgery. A neighbouring farmer said: "Rams can be very temperamental."

## Ex-teacher jailed

A former dance teacher at Bedales School admitted stealing £34,500 from clients after he had become a financial adviser. At Portsmouth Crown Court, Stamford Veitch, 44, was jailed for 15 months. He had used his clients' money to buy a house.

## Silent children ignored in care

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

DISABLED children who cannot speak are being neglected because care workers wrongly assume that they are unable to communicate, a new study has found.

Although many young people with severe communication difficulties can express themselves through noises, signs or electronic speech aids, social workers routinely overlook this fact.

The report, published by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and based on interviews with 30 disabled young people and their families, paints a picture of institutional callousness and indifference towards disabled children and young adults in care.

Mahmood, 16, who has multiple impairments, returned from a special school with scissor marks on his face and wounds on his back that appeared to have been made with a leather strap. He was

unable to say who was responsible and an inquiry by the social services was unsuccessful.

Although the 1989 Children Act states that disabled children who spend time away from their families must be consulted about their preferences, Jenny Murray, the report's author, found that many social workers assumed the requirement could not apply to children who could not talk. "The painful and sometimes downright awful experiences that young disabled people described confirm that the basic right of children to communicate is being violated in a routine—if sometimes unintended—fashion," Dr Murray said.

The report recommends that independent advocates, with specialist communication skills, be appointed for each disabled child in care to establish their needs.

## Memories of abuse branded as unsafe

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

MEMORIES of childhood sexual or satanic abuse elicited by therapists are dangerous and not credible, according to a two-year study by the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

The survey found no evidence that some people repressed memories of abuse but abundant evidence that memory can be distorted and that false memories do occur. "Illusory memories can arise during the course of any psychological treatment," the report says. "Their creation seems to depend upon the conviction of the therapist or the patient that sexual abuse underlies adult psychopathology. Memory-enhancing techniques do not improve the quality of remembering. They appear to be dangerous methods of persuasion."

The four consultant psychiatrists who drew up the report say that there is no means of determining factual truth or falsity of recovered memory other than through external evidence. "However, some memories are so bizarre that they are not credible. If something could not happen, it did not happen," they say.

Memories of satanic abuse or incidents before the age of four which are forgotten and later "recovered" are not credible, the authors say. While it is clear that sex rings do exist and some abusers use ritual, there is no evidence that people abused in this way repress their memories of what happened to them.

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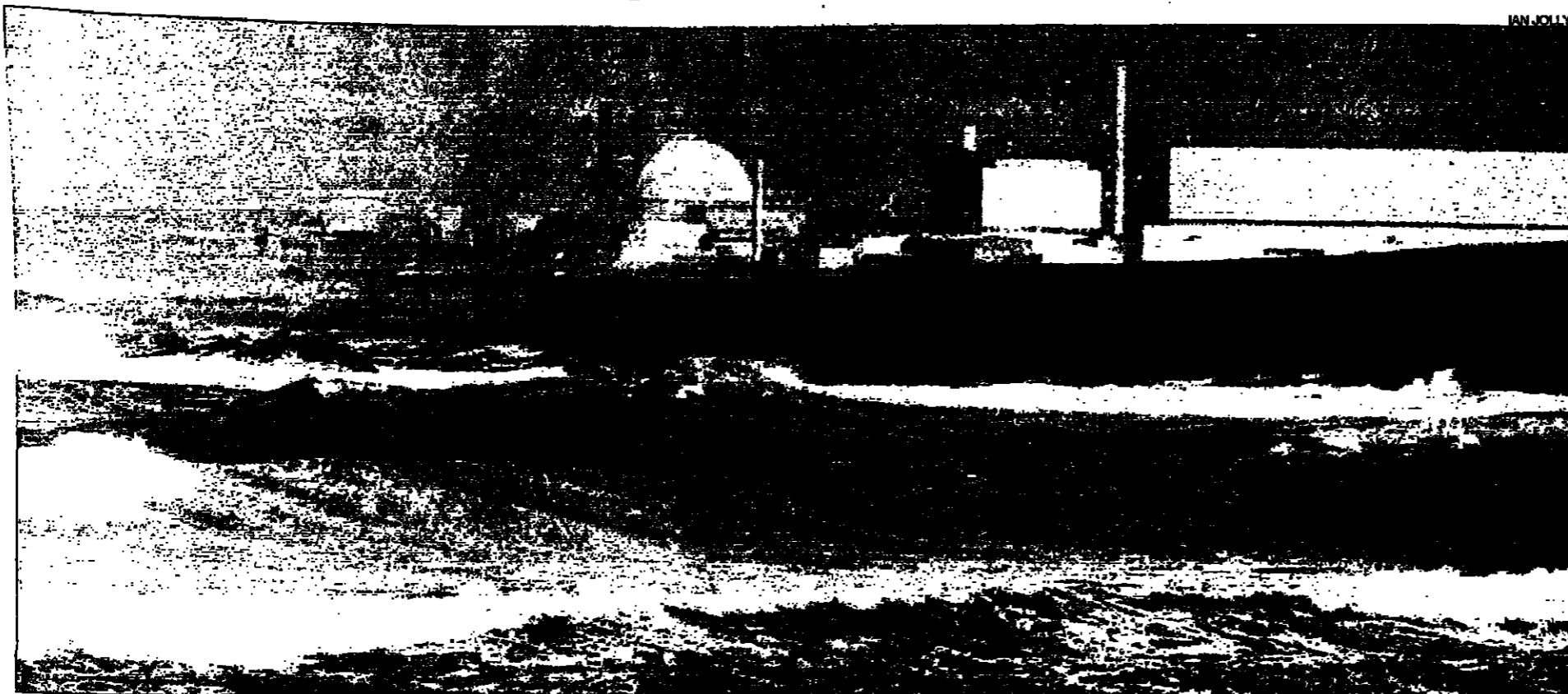
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# Deadly legacy must be unearthed



Dounreay, on the north coast of Scotland, where hazardous waste was stored in a shaft for decades. The Government has accepted advice that it should be retrieved

## Minister admits Dounreay shaft is not safe place for waste, reports Nick Nuttall

**H**AZARDOUS nuclear waste that was dumped down a shaft on the coast of northern Scotland decades ago is to be retrieved using a robot, the government announced yesterday.

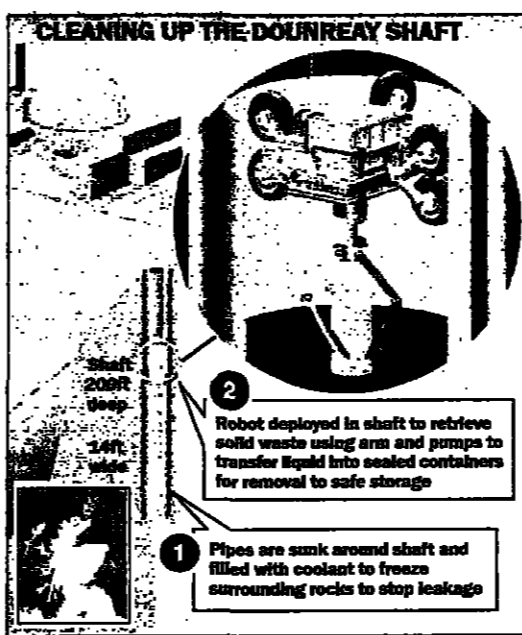
Environmental campaigners hailed the decision to undertake the pioneering project as a victory. It will take 25 years and cost up to £355 million.

Between 1958 and 1977 an estimated 75 cubic metres of nuclear and toxic waste, including contaminated equipment, was dumped down a 200ft shaft which had not been designed to hold radioactive materials. The dumping was halted in the late 1970s after an explosion caused by the build-up of hydrogen gas.

Campaigners have claimed that the mixture of radioactive



A hydrogen gas explosion caused the dumping of nuclear waste down the shaft to be halted in the late 1970s



materials — the wastes from Dounreay's now cancelled fast-breeder reactors — the geography of the site and the flooding of water into the shaft, still constituted an environmental hazard, with wastes escaping to the sea and the threat of another explosion.

Yesterday John Battle, the Energy Minister, announced

that the Government was acting on the advice of the UK Atomic Energy Authority. He told the Commons that their recommendation "that the radioactive waste in the Dounreay Intermediate Level Waste Shaft and in the Wet Silo should be retrieved for treatment and storage has been accepted by the Government."

"It is clear that the shaft does not provide standards of waste disposal that are acceptable today and that retrieval is the best practicable environmental option." It has the support of the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, the Radioactive Waste Management Advisory Committee and the Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation

in the Environment. Special interest groups have also shown support of the retrieval option," said Mr Battle. Sandy McWhirter, who will lead the team, said that they planned to sink pipes into which refrigerant chemicals would be pumped. The aim is to freeze water in the rock surrounding the shaft and its nuclear waste to minimise

leaks. The team may also opt to drill a series of holes down around the shaft into which grouting will be pumped.

Mr McWhirter said that a French-designed robot, resembling that used for lunar-landing, will be deployed. The robot, with rubber feet, will straddle the shaft, using its legs to brace itself against the wall. A selection of robotic arms and attachments can be fitted to pick up chisels, cameras, gloves, containers and other radioactive rubbish. Liquid wastes will be pumped out by the robot.

Lorraine Mann, of Scotland Against Nuclear Dumping, said: "We have been campaigning for this outcome for years and this is the result we were looking for. It really bolsters our confidence in the Government's intention to see that they are prepared to spend this amount on something which is so vital."

Robert MacLennan, the Liberal Democrat MP whose seat of Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross includes Dounreay, and who had asked the minister about his plans, welcomed "the end to the uncertainty about how the problem of the shaft is to be dealt with."

"I am glad that the Government is prepared to take the retrieval route."

# South Pacific rivals LA for air pollution

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

**S**MOG has invaded paradise. Remote islands in the South Pacific show levels of ozone that would trigger an alert in Los Angeles, the American Chemical Society was told yesterday.

Sherwood Rowland, of the University of California at Irvine, who won the 1995 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his studies of atmospheric ozone, said that islands as remote as Fiji and Easter Island now had periods of ozone pollution.

The Galapagos archipelago and Ascension Island, in the South Atlantic, also experience ozone pollution, he said. The main cause is the burning of trees and scrub on distant continents, indicating that the smog created by the burning is long-lasting and can travel great distances.

Ozone is usually a result of vehicle exhausts in cities. In large amounts, it can increase the risk of asthma attacks and stunt the growth of trees, shrubs and crops.

In congested cities or the apparently pristine environment of the South Seas, the chemistry involved is the same. Professor Rowland said: "You need hydrocarbons, nitrogen oxides and sunlight. In the tropics, burning forests give off hydrocarbons, high temperatures create nitrogen oxides, and there is plenty of sunlight."

The data reported by Professor Rowland and his colleague, Dr Donald Blake, come from a range of

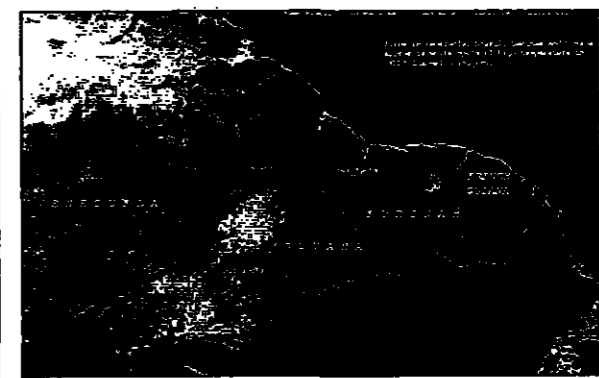
studies, some not yet published. Some of the most striking come from aircraft experiments by Nasa.

In 1996, for example, two research aircraft in the South Pacific encountered ozone from forest and scrub burning on 50 per cent of their flights. One flew through a plume of smog 500 miles north of Fiji in which ozone readings reached 131 parts per billion.

The pollution had travelled over Australia, with the biggest sources of ozone probably coming from as far away as Africa. In general, however, harmful ozone levels remain higher in the northern hemisphere than in the south, he said.

Professor Rowland shared the Nobel Prize with Professor Mario Molina, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, for their work in the 1970s showing the destructive effects of chlorofluorocarbons, or CFCs, on stratospheric ozone, which forms a protective shield against biologically harmful ultraviolet sunlight.

He now considers lower-level ozone a greater hazard because it is much harder to deal with. Stratospheric ozone levels are expected to recover during the next century as a result of phasing out the CFCs responsible. He has said that it will be more difficult to change the habits of vehicle ownership and the forest and crop burning that lie behind low-level ozone increases.



A satellite image of South America. Areas that look like clouds are where burning has occurred

# This year April Fool's Day is on April 6th.

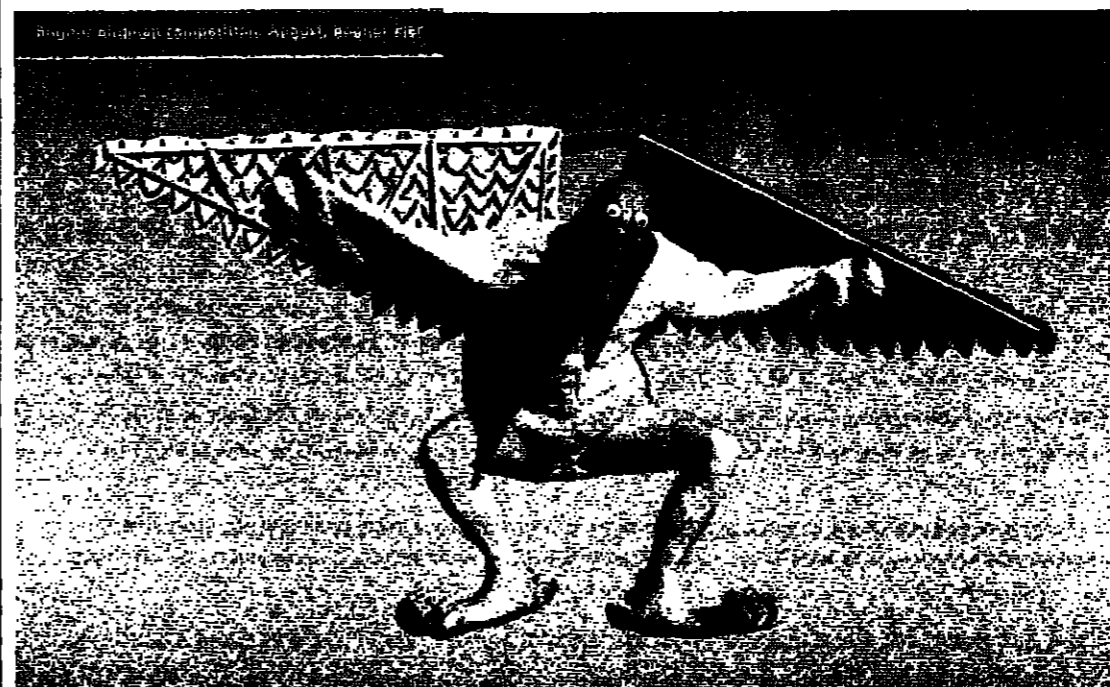
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# Unite behind Hague, Patten will tell Tories

Andrew Pierce on a speech that will boost the party leader with lavish praise and a call for the loyal support denied to his predecessor



Strong leaders: Tory peers complain that Al Capone's style is being adopted by Tony Blair's ministers

## Labour accused of mob tactics

By James Landale  
POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Government was accused yesterday of behaving like gangsters in an attempt to prevent Tory peers opposing plans to reform the House of Lords.

Viscount Cranborne, Tory leader in the Lords, said that the tactics of Al Capone had no place at Westminster. He was referring to an unnamed minister who told a newspaper that if Tory hereditary peers refused to co-operate with Labour's plans to expel them from the Lords, none of them would be allowed to return as life peers.

The Government promised before the election that "it should be made possible for a limited number of those [heredi-

tary] peers who play an active part in the work of the Lords to become life peers". Without some active hereditary peers remaining in place over the short term, it was feared a newly reformed House of Lords would grind to a halt.

But yesterday *The Daily Telegraph* reported a minister as saying: "If the Tories seek to defend the hereditary principle, they will all end up losing their seats, including Lord Cranborne."

Lord Cranborne said: "Mr Blair wants an emasculated House of Lords and is prepared to use crude threats to achieve that. The idea that the House of Lords is going to surrender to these sort of Al Capone-like tactics is a positive outrage."

The Government denied having issued any threat. Lord Richard, the Leader of the Lords, said: "There have been no substantive discussions with Opposition members of the House of Lords on the future of hereditary peers and we don't know where this story has come from."

Lord Cranborne, who is holding occasional talks with Lord Richard, said the Tories were prepared to co-operate with the Government to find common ground. But he insisted that if hereditary peers were to go they should be replaced with some equally independent element to hold the Government to account. "I am certainly not prepared to die in the ditch for hereditary peers," he said, but the old House of Lords should leave behind a new House that worked.

Chris Patten will break his silence on domestic Tory politics today by backing William Hague and demanding that there be no repeat of the disloyalty that destroyed John Major's leadership.

The former Cabinet minister and Governor of Hong Kong, regarded as the favourite of the Tory Left in any future leadership contest, will seek to dampen the speculation about his own ambitions in a speech at London's St Stephen's Club.

Mr Patten, who was a close ally of John Major, will make a plea for party unity, saying of Mr Hague: "He has made an excellent start and deserves the loyal and enduring support so fatally denied his predecessor."

The speech also contains a strong attack on Tony Blair, who he will claim has manifestly failed to create an "ism" in the way that Margaret Thatcher did in the 1980s.

But it is his support for Mr Hague, who is on the opposite wing of the party on Europe, which will attract most comment. At the end of last year Mr Patten joined Michael Heseltine, Kenneth Clarke and other Tory grandees in signing a letter that attacked Mr Hague's opposition to joining the European single currency for two parliaments.

The inclusion of Mr Patten, 53, increased speculation that he saw himself as a future challenger to the 37-year-old Mr Hague. However, senior Tories who had seen advance

copies of today's speech said it showed that he was not limbering up for a return to mainstream British politics. "It shows he is telling people across the party: unite behind William," one senior Tory said.

Michael Forlito, the lost leader of the Tory Right who was bundled out of Parliament at the election, has embarked on a similar strategy to Mr Patten with a series of carefully worded speeches in support of Mr Hague.

Mr Patten will address the Europe issue head on in his speech by conceding that it will cause division. "Europe will continue to stir controversy and debate inside the Conservative Party. That is scarcely surprising," he will say.

"The issues are immense and they matter greatly. Before long, we will see the stirrings of debate even within the new model Labour Party. What is crucial is that we should not let the debate fatally divide the Conservative Party."

While acknowledging that he and Mr Clarke could be on opposite sides to the Tory

election at any price. He will say: "The Conservatives must patiently bide and wait for the tide to turn as it surely will. When we deserve it, those who invented today's agenda will be charged with the task of carrying it out."

He will praise Mr Hague for having avoided the risk of veering to the right to try to regain popularity, and will implicitly warn him to resist any such temptation in the future. "He has led the party from a position in its traditional centre with skill and determination. He possesses formidable parliamentary ability and an engaging unflappability."

"The reforms of the party turn it into one single entity, the establishment of one member, one vote leadership contests, and ethics and integrity committees to stamp out impropriety, all the sensible first steps in building the party, he will say."

Mr Patten, a former Tory chairman, will add: "Ever recent party chairman would confirm he has been right to concentrate first on reforming the party. But he has outlined in thought and measured speeches his commitment to support for the party and for local democracy."

Mr Patten, who is compiling a book on the Far East as his experience as Governor of Hong Kong, has not decided whether to return to Westminster. He has been mentioned as a possible Tory candidate to be mayor of London.



Patten: undecided about his future

## Why Blair should risk exposure in The Sun

RIDDELL  
ON POLITICS

TONY BLAIR has problems over the strength of the pound and over his relations with Rupert Murdoch. The answer to both is the same — come out now unambiguously in support of British entry into a single currency within a specified period. It is, after all, what Mr Blair believes and what the Government has been signalling to other European Governments. Robin Cook has already pointed the way in his interview with *The Times* on Monday.

Much self-righteous nonsense has been written about the Blair/Murdoch relationship by critics with their own vested interests. All Prime Ministers keep close contact with business leaders: Margaret Thatcher had an open door to her favourite industrialists and sought to promote exports and investments by British companies. Media tycoons (they generally have that dynamic force) have always enjoyed good access in Downing Street. It is one of the chores endured by Prime Ministers. Lord McNally, sponsor of the successful amendment on "predatory" pricing, observed as James Callaghan's political adviser in the 1970s how intimate the relations were between the Wilson Governments and the *Daily Mirror*, leading to the employment of some of the paper's executives.

All this is really beside the point. No one should be surprised that Mr Murdoch and News International want the ear of Downing Street on the many regulatory issues affecting them. Other companies do as well. The interesting question is why the Blairites have been so keen to court Mr Murdoch.

However, the relationship rests on two misconceptions — over the power of the press and over European policy. The Blair camp understandably wanted to neutralise, and if possible win over, *The Sun* in last year's election campaign. But Mr Blair's media advisers exaggerate its influence. *The Sun*, and other tabloids, may reinforce views, but there is little evidence that they are decisive. The paper did not win the 1992 election for the Tories, nor did its support for Mr Blair a year ago make any real difference. *The Sun* and other papers followed a swing to Labour by their readers rather than produced one.

Mr Blair has paid a price. Before *The Sun's* pro-Blair leader last year, he wrote an article giving a patriot-

ic/Euro-sceptic impression, however careful he was not to make any commitments. In government, senior ministers have been deliberately ambiguous, sending both pro-European and sceptical messages, so as to allow *The Sun* to claim that the issue is still open. Mr Blair argues that the Government needs space to establish itself before risking a bitter, and possibly close, battle over EMU. He is also said to have hopes of in time persuading Mr Murdoch about the advantages of entry.

Some Blairites believe that if Mr Murdoch becomes more involved on the Continent, there is a greater chance of winning him over. Perhaps. But no one should underestimate the strong opposition to EMU in principle of the editorial writers of the main News International titles. It has been *The Sun's*

most consistent campaign. It would be much healthier, and more candid, if the pretence that the Government is undecided about a single currency was abandoned. If that meant criticism, and more from *The Sun*, so what? It will not be decisive in a referendum. There has to be a parting of the ways at some stage if Britain is to enter EMU in four years. More openness now would put the Blair/Murdoch relationship on a normal working basis without any of the current illusions about where the Prime Minister stands on Europe.

It might also help to puncture the current sterling bubble. As Gordon Brown told the Treasury Committee yesterday, there are no short-term measures the Treasury can, or should, take. But a declaration about the Government's long-term intentions on EMU could help to bring down the pound and ease some of the pressures on industry.

PETER RIDDELL

### THE TIMES/DILLONS FORUM



MEET NICK HORNBY

Nick Hornby, the best-selling author of *Fever Pitch* and *High Fidelity*, will be talking about his new novel, *About a Boy*, at a Times/Dillons Forum. Hornby will read extracts from the book and answer readers' questions about his work.

Chaired by Lynne Truss, *Times* columnist and comic novelist, the forum will take place at 7.30pm on April 7 at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London, WC1. The admission price of £10 (concessions £7.50 for students, pensioners and the unemployed) includes £2 off copies of *About a Boy* (Gollancz, £15.99).

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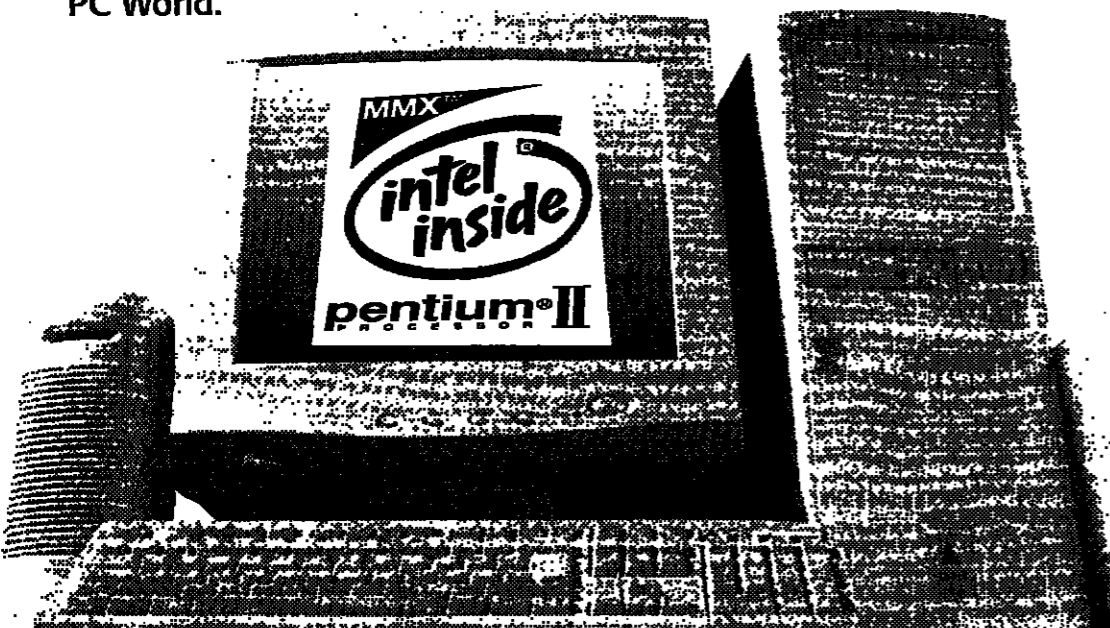
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## Chinese leader visits the Queen at Windsor

BY MICHAEL BINYON  
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

ZHU RONGJI, the Chinese Prime Minister, arrived in Britain yesterday for a double summit in London and went to Windsor to see the Queen.

The newly appointed premier, making his first visit overseas since his appointment last month, was briefly received by the Queen in the Green Drawing Room, one of the areas of the castle restored after the fire.

It is the first time the Queen has met a Chinese prime minister since her state visit in 1986. As a memento of her meeting, she gave him a silver framed photograph of herself and Prince Philip.

Today, Mr Zhu has talks with Baroness Thatcher and Sir Edward Heath before a round of talks with the Bank of England and City experts on privatisation and the financial reforms he is eager to introduce.

Tomorrow Mr Zhu has two summits in Downing Street. The first is a meeting with Tony Blair that will build on Britain's rapidly improving relations with China and the prospects for expanded trade. The second, immediately afterwards, is the first summit between China and the European Union, where Mr Blair will be joined by Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission, and Sir Leon Brittan, the EU Commissioner responsible for relations with China. Burgeoning trade relations and human rights will top both agendas.

# Election win threatens stability in Caucasus

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

ROBERT KOCHARYAN, Armenia's young, dynamic but hardline nationalist Prime Minister, yesterday won a landslide victory in presidential elections, threatening to plunge the volatile Caucasus region into a new period of uncertainty.

Electoral officials said that with most of the ballots counted from Monday's run-off contest, the former leader of the breakaway enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh had established an unassailable lead. Mr Kocharyan received more than 60 per cent of the vote, well ahead of his challenger, Karen Demirciyan, the former Soviet communist boss, who trailed at just under 40 per cent.

The triumph was nothing short of spectacular for Mr Kocharyan, 43, a former engineer who was appointed Prime Minister only a year ago by the former President, Levon Ter-Petrossian, who resigned last month.

Since then he has established himself as a competent administrator and eager reformer. The qualities are badly needed to prop up Armenia's economy, which suffers not only from post-Soviet turmoil but also the impact of the decade-long economic blockade imposed by the country's neighbours, Azerbaijan and Turkey.

Mr Kocharyan, who built up Armenian forces in their victorious attempt to break Nagorno-Karabakh away from Azerbaijan, was instrumental in forcing Mr Ter-Petrossian from office, after he displayed too much flexibility in

regional peace negotiations. A peace plan brokered by the Organisation of Security and Co-operation in Europe had proposed granting Nagorno-Karabakh independent status within Azerbaijan. In return, Armenian forces would withdraw from captured Azerbaijani lands and allow the return of hundreds of thousands of refugees.

Mr Ter-Petrossian, a former dissident in Soviet times, misjudged the public mood of opposing any concessions to Baku and was forced to resign. Although the new President-elect's tough views are more in keeping with the general opinion in Armenia, outside observers warn that the country could pay heavily for its endorsement of such a nationalist leader.

Billions of pounds from the West are being invested in Azerbaijan to exploit the Caspian Sea's huge untapped oil wealth and other states in the region, such as Georgia and Turkey, are likely to benefit from the economic boom.

Baku, which only a few years ago was a poor backwater, has been transformed into a bustling oil centre, while Yerevan has changed little since the Soviet Union broke apart seven years ago.

Internationally Armenia has been forced to choose strange partners to survive. It relies on Iran for trade, on Russia for arms and security ties and on America, where the powerful Armenian expatriate lobby ensures a steady flow of aid.



Robert Kocharyan acknowledges supporters in Yerevan after voting in Armenia's presidential poll

## Maoris win £56m apology for treaty betrayal

Wellington: Doug Graham, New Zealand's Justice Minister, came close to tears in Parliament yesterday as he introduced a Bill to set a century of injustices inflicted on the country's South Island Maori.

The 546-page Ngai Tahu Claims Settlement Bill records the Crown's apology to the Ngai Tahu people for breaches of the 1840 Treaty of Waitangi and formalises the agreement, signed in October last year, giving the tribe £56.6 million compensation. The settlement honours the 1840 Treaty of Waitangi, under which New Zealand became part of the British Empire, and which promised the Maoris they would keep their land and forests, including forests and fisheries.

In subsequent wars, however, the Maori people, including the Ngai Tahu, were brutally dispossessed and although around 13 per cent of the population, are marginalised.

Mr Graham detailed some of the injustices to the Ngai Tahu: the Crown set out on a campaign to acquire as much land as possible, breached promises to set aside adequate reserves for Ngai Tahu, failed to preserve mahinga kai or food gathering rights — enjoyable centuries, and, in the result, best inadvertently ensured that Ngai Tahu would indeed be marginalised.

Adelaide: More than 27,000 miles of desolate outback used by Britain for atomic testing in the 1950s and 1960s was handed back to its traditional Aboriginal owners yesterday after a £39.3 million clean-up of the southwestern Australian site. The clean-up came after an official inquiry into the British testing at Maralinga, where contamination forced the indigenous Maralinga Tjarutja people to leave their land. (Reuters)

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## Britain 'is hindering' Swiss over cash crime

FROM PETER CAPELLA  
IN GENEVA

ONE OF Switzerland's senior magistrates has attacked Britain's record of providing legal assistance in international criminal cases, including its failure to reveal information on suspicious bank accounts.

The criticism came as the Swiss introduced a law that will tighten controls on money laundering and undermine Switzerland's legendary banking secrecy.

Bernard Bertossa, the public prosecutor for the canton of Geneva, told *The Times* he had been waiting for several years for information on accounts used in Britain for economic crime. Some are understood to be suspected of being part of a money laundering chain. The delays allow assets to be moved and give time for the origins of the money to be hidden.

Mr Bertossa, who is an outspoken critic of Swiss banking secrecy, said one of the cases involved a 100 million Swiss franc (£43 million) fraud, and no information had been provided for two years. He said the British authorities had never clearly explained the delay.

"Britain doesn't have the formal obstacles that we do in our law, but in practical terms, its co-operation in mutual legal assistance is far worse than Switzerland's."

Geneva authorities are still waiting for a response to an extradition request against two Britons lodged three years ago. They are being sought in connection with the kidnapping of the nine-year-old son of a Syrian businessman here in 1987.

The new money laundering law, which comes into force today, obliges Swiss banks to report on suspicious transactions and deposits. For the first time, it also imposes stricter controls on lawyers and a network of financial middlemen who are commonly used by traffickers, mafia bosses, and corrupt politicians to hide and launder money in Switzerland.

## Papon verdict likely soon after six-month trial

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE longest trial in French history approaches its climax today as a Bordeaux jury prepares to deliver its verdict on Maurice Papon, the elderly French bureaucrat accused of committing crimes against humanity by sending hundreds of Jews to their deaths in the Second World War.

A verdict in the case is expected tonight or early tomorrow, but after six months of testimony, numerous delays and a mountain of evidence, few would dare to predict the outcome.

Prosecutors have argued that M Papon, 87, was a crucial and willing participant in the Nazi genocide, an "exceptionally intelligent, efficient and methodical" collaborator who, as secretary-general of the Bordeaux region under the Vichy regime, knowingly sent more than 1,500 Jewish men, women and children to their deaths in German concentration camps. M Papon has argued that he was no more than a small cog in a machine he did not build and could not control. He denied he knew the fate of the Jewish deportees and claimed that he had done his best to alleviate their plight. Much of the trial has been taken up with exploring his claims to have been an active agent in the Resistance.

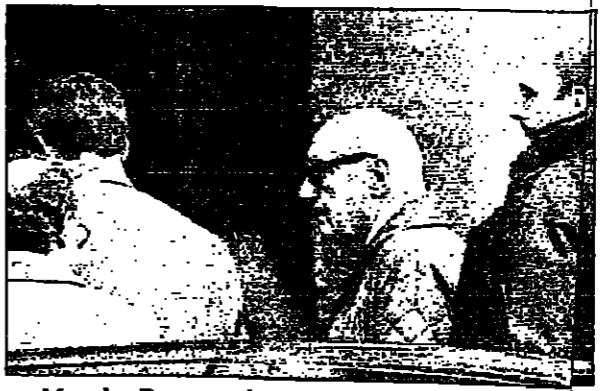
The historical significance and complexity of the Papon trial lie in the fact that the accused was not a Fascist, an anti-Semite or a mass murderer,

but a pen-pusher whose principal ideology was one of service to the state. M Papon's lawyers have also sought to portray him as a powerless victim of Nazi domination.

"The Germans demanded total obedience from French bureaucrats. Do you have an idea what it's like to have Nazi flags and Nazi soldiers everywhere?" Marc Varaut, M Papon's lawyer, said in his summing-up this week.

The charges of complicity in crimes against humanity carry a life sentence, but if moral condemnation of Papon's situation was obliquely acknowledged by state prosecutors last week when they asked for a reduced sentence of 20 years.

Some lawyers representing civil plaintiffs have asked for even lower sentences, none which will ever be imposed since M Papon will certainly appeal against any conviction. Having been allowed his liberty during the trial on grounds of ill-health, he cannot be imprisoned on appeal process that could take many years and that the ailing Papon is unlikely to survive. Montpellier: In protest against political alliances of the xenophobic Far Right, council is to name a street in de Vichy, after the Second World War collaborator Government. The street is past the regional assembly, led by Jacques Blanc, a centrist politician supported the National Front. (AFP)



Maurice Papon arrives at the Bordeaux courtroom

## Number is up for lottery mon

Bangkok: A Buddhist monk in Thailand faces being dismissed "if he even hints" to colleagues what the winning numbers of the next national lottery will be (Andrew Drummond writes).

Luang Phor Niwet, who has successfully predicted the winning numbers 15 times, would be banished from his vocation

and temple if he did not desist from his forecasting, the Religious Affairs Department said yesterday.

The monk has spawned a cottage industry of lottery handbooks highlighting his predictions, and every week thousands flock to his temple to see if he will favour them with a tip. He says he has

stopped making public predictions. But sometimes gyp punters jump to their own conclusions when they see how the wax falls from gnomes, forming numbers when he is conducting religious ceremonies.

Punters taking part in lotteries all over the world have written seeking his help

سكنا من الأمل

# Rapists face death as Bangladesh backs female cause

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS, SOUTH ASIA CORRESPONDENT

THE Bangladesh Cabinet has approved the death penalty for rape. It is the toughest response of any of the seven countries of South Asia — most of them prejudiced against female rights — to spiralling crimes against women.

The maximum penalty for trafficking in, raping or murdering women in Bangladesh is currently ten years in jail, but parliament is expected to impose the death penalty within a few days. Police said three women were raped in Dhaka, the capital, during the short time the Cabinet discussed the new law.

The move will further highlight the hopeless position of women in Pakistan, where Muslim clerics have succeeded in making it all but impossible to prosecute a rapist. That explains an explosion in sexual crimes, almost none of which leads to prosecution — except of women, for engaging

in "unlawful" sex. Sharia (Islamic law) in Pakistan requires a woman to present three male, Muslim witnesses to prove there was penetration. Abdul Matin Khasru, the Bangladesh Minister for Law, said that men involved in the abduction, trafficking or sexual abuse of women would automatically face the death penalty under the proposed law. "I have consulted a large number of experts before finalising the proposal and hope that parliament will pass it unanimously," he said. Sheikh Hasina, the Prime Minister, has expressed her determination to curb criminal activities relating to the abuse of women and children. She is known to be appalled by the practice of smuggling emaciated Bangladeshi children to the Middle East to be used as jockeys in camel racing, and has succeeded in curbing the practice through

increased border surveillance. Right-wing mullahs in Bangladesh hounded out Taslima Nasreen, a feminist writer, for her forthright comments on men and sex, but compared with their Pakistani counterparts they are positively moderate. There are, nevertheless, occasional reports of priests in rural areas instigating the public whipping of women for pre-marital sex. Women in India fare better than most in the region: village culture is intolerant of sexual offences and the authorities are willing to deal firmly with rape suspects, although the practice of "bride burning" — setting a woman alight for producing inadequate dowry — still occurs. Bangladesh, uniquely in South Asia, has advanced the status of women through micro-loans — £300 is the limit — for the purchase of a cow, a sewing machine or some other means of earning a living.



Virginia Teelow from the Reserve Bank of Australia holds up one of the new plastic \$100 notes which are designed to foil counterfeiters

## America may fight forgers with a fistful of plastic

AMERICANS may soon exchange their scruffy greenbacks for more durable, plastic notes that will be almost impossible to forge. Australia has already issued plastic money, and the United States is deciding whether to follow suit. The Bureau of Printing and Engraving in Washington is running tests on the plastic notes which allow the incorporation of several security features not possible on paper.

The issue was aired yesterday during a congressional hearing on the rapid growth of sophisticated counterfeiting. Michael Castle, the Republican chairman, said plastic notes

incorporating a small clear window embossed with a note's denomination would be an almost impossible challenge for counterfeiters using computers and ink-jet printers. However, Howard Schloss, assistant secretary at the US Treasury, said the Treasury was already redesigning US currency, with new watermarks, a patented colour-shifting ink and a

polymer security thread, and officials were not sure they wanted to embark on another big step. The new Australian currency is made from sheets of thin plastic called polymer substrate. The notes can be used for four times longer than paper notes which last only seven months in the smaller denominations, and work normally in cash machines.

## Israelis 'will not be made suckers in peace process'

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

HOURS after sending Dennis Ross, the American peace envoy, back to Washington empty-handed, Binyamin Netanyahu visited a West Bank settlement yesterday and pledged that Israel would not be made "suckers" in the peace process.

Speaking in the town of Maale Adumim built on occupied land captured from Jordan in 1967, the Israeli Prime Minister claimed that it was now "part of greater Jerusalem" and told schoolchildren who had drawn maps depicting the West Bank as part of Israel proper: "We are not suckers. A situation in which we will give and not receive is not acceptable. Israel cannot give and give and not get anything back in return from the other side."

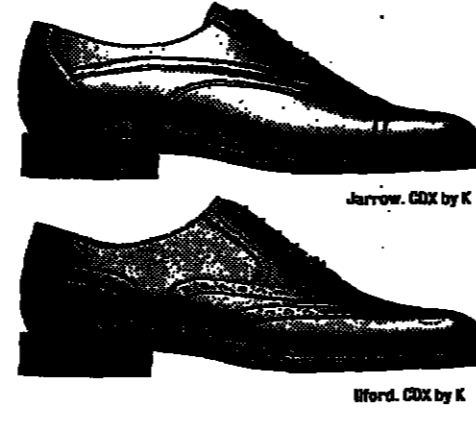
The Prime Minister, who flatly rejected US demands for the return of a further 13 per cent of West Bank territory in a move to revive the 12-month deadlock in the peace process, added: "We will not accept the equation of land in return for nothing, or land in return for terror." The visit, seen as a direct snub to a repeated demand from both the US and the European Union for at least a temporary halt to settlement

expansion, came after an Israel Radio report that tenders for the building of the first 1,000 housing units in the new settlement of Har Homa will be sent out "in a few days or weeks". Liberal Israeli critics of Britain had warned that the spotlight turned on Har Homa in annexed east Jerusalem by Robin Cook's chaotic trip there last month would only increase right-wing pressure on Mr Netanyahu, also the acting Housing Minister, to start issuing the vital tenders that had been quietly frozen for months. Yesterday Mr Netanyahu attempted to brush off American criticism that he had sent Mr Ross home empty-handed and put Israel on a diplomatic collision course with the US. Israeli commentators disagreed. Columnist Hemi Shelev wrote in *Maariv*: "The almost universal conclusion is that the peace process has reached a dead end, and that the mediation effort undertaken by Dennis Ross has failed." The State Department dismissed suggestions that if the peace process were to break down altogether, the US would assign blame.

Leading article, page 19

# Tell your boss he's fired.

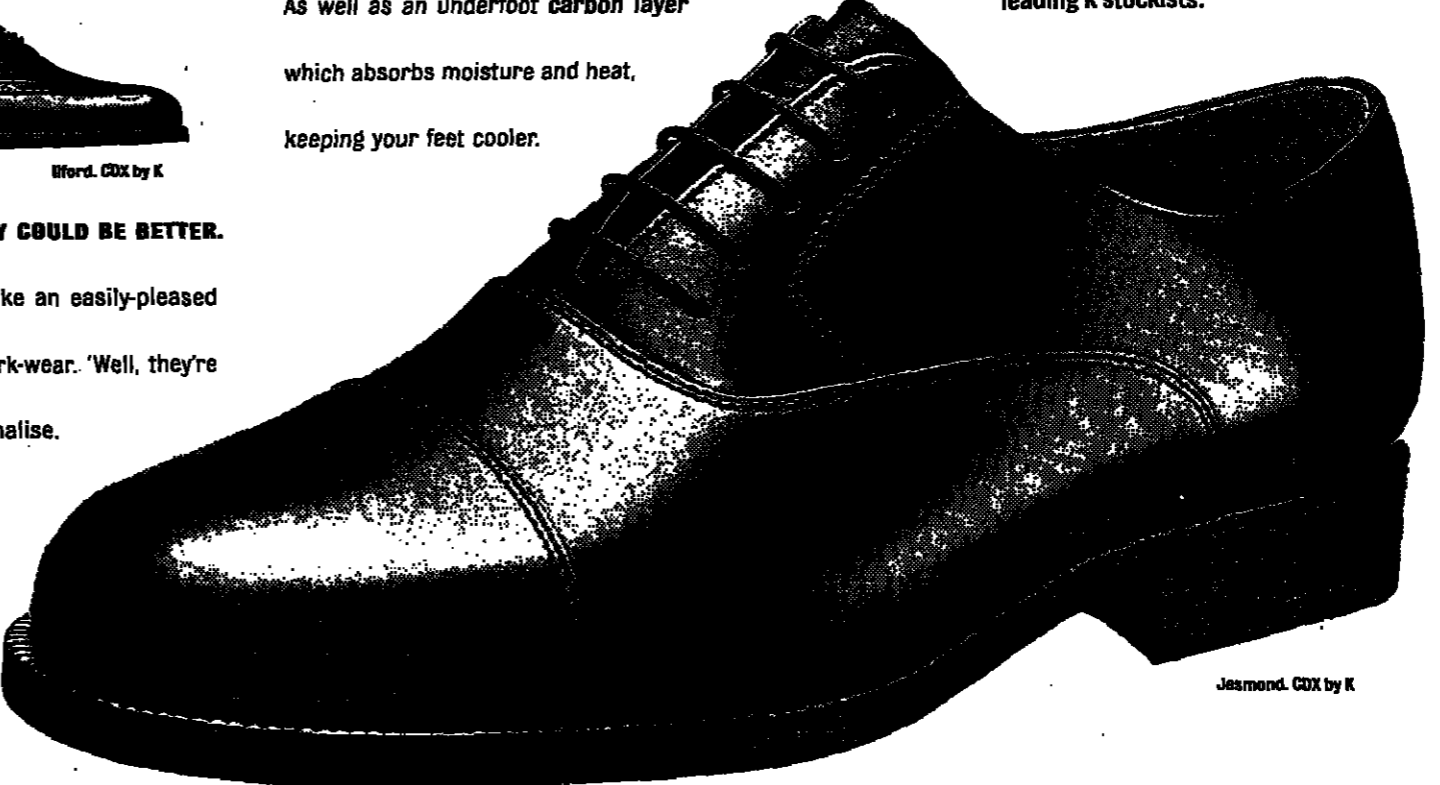
Run off with his attractive wife. Set sail into the sunset. Never do a day's work in your life again. We can all dream! The reality is that improving your working life doesn't happen suddenly. Rarely does it happen dramatically. Like most things, you can only begin to make a difference one step at a time. We believe that quite literally. By choosing the shoes you wear to work carefully, your life can change.



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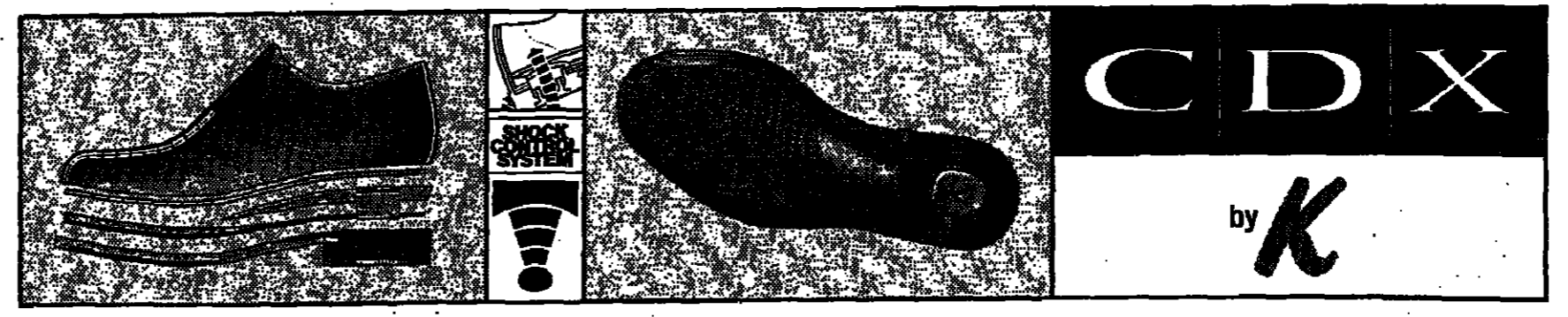
There, technical innovation and advanced design are incorporated as standard. It is accepted wisdom that these shoes make a difference to our performance. Would it not make sense to demand the same sophistication, the same improvement in performance, from shoes we spend our working lives wearing? A REAL, TANGIBLE DIFFERENCE. Think how many miles you must walk between colleagues, jobs, fax machines, meetings and the rest. Then consider the benefits of the CDX 'Shock Absorption Systems' which cushion both your heel and ball of foot areas. As well as an underfoot carbon layer which absorbs moisture and heat, keeping your feet cooler.

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President Clinton at Mokolodi Nature Reserve near Gaborone in Botswana yesterday

# Clinton backs away from agreement on global warming

MARVELLING at his first experience of the African bush, Bill Clinton emerged from his two-day safari in Botswana offering little tangible encouragement to environmentalists in spite of his gushing admiration for African nature.

Speaking after talks with environmentalists close to Chobe National Park, itself part of the endangered ecosystem of the Okavango delta, Mr Clinton pledged support for an international treaty to monitor and combat desertification in Africa, but backed away from endorsing wider environmental treaties aimed at reducing global warming.

The Okavango swamps, where the Cubango River empties into the Kalahari desert, could be among the beneficiaries of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification that Mr Clinton said he would try to push through the US Senate. But he stopped short of commenting on the Namibian Government's plans to tap the river's waters, which environmentalists say will cause the Okavango delta to dry up.

"Any human being who spends any appreciable amount of time in a uniquely pristine place full of the wonders of animal and plant life instinctively feels humanity's sacred obligation to preserve our environment," Mr Clinton said.

Environmentalists will also be disappointed that he did not offer any new commitments to reducing so-called "greenhouse" gases which have contributed to global warming or to other aspects of international environmental legislation which the United

States has been reluctant to endorse. After spending five hours touring the Chobe River, where hippopotamuses, crocodiles and elephants basked in a pink twilight, Mr Clinton said that his trip had ended in an "amazing day".

Perhaps referring to Kenneth Starr, the special investigator examining allegations against Mr Clinton of sexual harassment, he said after seeing a monitor lizard, a carnivorous reptile: "I thought of all the people I would like that lizard to monitor, but unfortunately I could not catch it and take it home."

Shortly before setting off for Senegal, the last country on his 11-day tour.

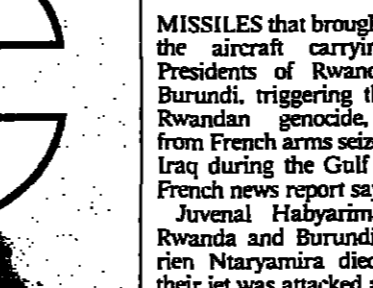
Mr Clinton said that he would ask the space agency Nasa to commit satellites and ground-based surveillance equipment to a project to monitor land-use changes in southern Africa. He said the project would improve seasonal drought predictions and measure the impact of land use on climate change.

Earlier yesterday, Mr Clinton declared his excursion through the Botswana bush "beyond my wildest dreams". Aides said he was also interested in Botswana's approach to maintaining its natural resources. The Government places direct control over wildlife and land resources on local communities, and has declared more than 17 per cent of the land area as protected. An extra 20 per cent to 25 per cent is reserved for community management of natural resources.

Though the American visitors may have been impressed with the stated policies of the Botswana Government, the reality is that the administration has been bitterly criticised by human rights groups for forcing San (bushmen) from their ancestral home to make way for game parks.

The Botswana Government has also drawn fire for its "foot and mouth", a fence which stretches across the Kalahari intended to keep wildlife away from beef cattle. The success of the beef enterprise, in which many government figures have a share, has resulted in desertification because of over-grazing.

Sandy Gall, page 18



# Mayor Barry dogged by new scandal

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

MARION BARRY, Washington's trouble-prone Mayor, has denied new suspicions of immoral behaviour, even as benefactors line up funds for him to become a professor instead of running for reelection.

The head of the Mayor's police bodyguards has complained that Mr Barry, 62, refused to let them enter some of the private residences where he frequently paid lengthy visits. On one occasion when officers tried to check on his safety, Mr Barry came to the door "partially clothed". On another, they were told he was asleep.

The allegations were in a memo by Ricky Mitchell, who heads the Mayor's 15-strong security detail. Lieutenant Mitchell said he had no hard evidence or proof but "the appearance of unethical or immoral conduct by public officials is unacceptable".

Acting on the memo, a senior officer recommended that bodyguards should go to the door of premises entered by the Mayor to obtain the names and telephone number of occupants so they could then ring up Mr Barry every half an hour to ensure his safety.

A more stringent proposal came from Lauch Faircloth, a senator who oversees Washington's purse strings. He said if Mr Barry wanted to avoid his costly security force they should be withdrawn entirely.

During his 16 years in office, Mr Barry has been portrayed as a night owl who drops by at addresses throughout Washington. It was on one such occasion that he was caught smoking crack.

Mr Barry said the allegation that he came to a door partially clothed was "just ridiculous". There was "nothing immoral" or unethical about his visits to see political supporters.

The memo had surfaced because this was an election year and he was trying to decide whether to run for a fifth term as Mayor, Mr Barry said.

While voters chuckled over the new controversy, a consortium of presidents from 12 universities in the Washington area was putting together a plan for Mr Barry to become a professor of urban politics at an annual salary of \$100,000 (£60,500) instead of running again. But he insisted: "They're not doing this to keep me from running."

# Presidents 'killed by French missiles'

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS AND SAM KILEY IN JOHANNESBURG

MISSILES that brought down the aircraft carrying the Presidents of Rwanda and Burundi, triggering the 1994 Rwandan genocide, came from French arms seized from Iraq during the Gulf War, a French news report says.

Juvénal Habyarimana of Rwanda and Burundi's Cyprien Ntaryamira died when their jet was attacked as it approached Kigali airport on April 6, 1994. Citing two French army officers, *Le Figaro* said the missiles were both Soviet-made SAM16s. The newspaper also quoted Filip Reyngens, an Africa expert, as saying the weapons "may have been sold to Iraq in 1988", and published "a note listing serial numbers, handwritten by a Rwandan Army officer".

The unidentified French officers are reportedly willing to testify to the French commission investigating whether France or French officials can be held to account for the four-month Rwandan carnage unleashed that April. More than 800,000 minority Tutsis and moderate Hutus died at the hands of Hutu extremists. One officer was

quoted as saying France had in effect "collected the missiles" during the Iraqi conflict. The second had "knowledge of a demand, made between November 1993 and February 1994, with a view to supplying the two ground-to-air missiles", the paper reported, adding the source said the order "seemed to come from someone close to former Captain Paul Barril".

Yesterday Edouard Balladur, Prime Minister of France from 1993 to 1995, denied Paris had supplied weapons to Rwanda after the bloodbath erupted.

Captain Barril, once with the late President Mitterrand's anti-terrorism cell within the Elysée Palace, said yesterday that the assassination was planned and carried out by the Tutsi-dominated Rwandan Patriotic Front.

Investigations by *The Times* and other British newspapers show Paris supplied weapons to the Hutu Government after the *United Nations* had been told of the plot to kill Mr Habyarimana and then unleash the Interahamwe — those who kill together — against the Tutsi minority.

# 'I had sex with Bill' says beauty queen

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

A FORMER Miss America yesterday reversed earlier denials and admitted that she had sex with Bill Clinton when he was Governor of Arkansas.

Elizabeth Ward Graecen, 37, whose testimony is being sought in the Paula Jones sexual harassment suit against the President, spoke for the first time about their liaison, claiming she wanted to rebut allegations that Mr Clinton forced himself on her.

She rejected accusations that Mr Clinton coerced her into silence about their one-night tryst, but said she had issued a formal denial during the 1992 presidential campaign on the advice of his aides.

"I had sex with Bill Clinton, but the important part to me is that I was never pressured," she told the *New York Daily News*. "We had an intimate evening. Nothing was ever forced. It was completely consensual."

While her statements contradicted sworn testimony by a friend that Mr Clinton sexually assaulted the beauty queen turned actress, they nonetheless continued to show a pattern of philandering and subsequent denial by Mr Clinton. He first denied an affair with Jennifer Flowers but, in evidence in the Jones case, admitted he had once slept with her.



Graecen: after she was crowned Miss America

Ms Graecen said their meeting took place in 1983, the year after her reign as Miss America. Both were married and the two met socially and first flirted during a brief ride in Mr Clinton's limousine with at least five other people. A few days later, she said, they met for a passionate rendezvous at an apartment building.

In admitting the brief encounter, Ms Graecen said she

hoped to end continuing speculation that Mr Clinton had sexually assaulted her and then arranged jobs and other benefits to ensure her silence. Judy Stokes, a former friend, has given evidence in the Jones case that Ms Graecen tearfully told her she had been forced to have sex in the back of a limousine in 1982.

"That never happened. It's completely false. I never told her that Bill Clinton pressured me or harassed me. It's made me into a smoking gun and I'm not that," said Ms Graecen. "The lies gain credibility every day that I don't address them."

Lawyers for Ms Jones, the former Arkansas employee who alleges that Mr Clinton asked her to perform oral sex in the Excelsior Hotel in Little Rock in 1991, have subpoenaed Ms Graecen in the hope that she would allege in front of a jury next month that she was assaulted and then coerced into silence.

The actress has avoided all pre-trial testimony in the Jones case by remaining outside the United States for almost four months.

Claiming she had no wish to undermine the President, but clearly seeking to exonerate herself from the mire of the Jones suit, Ms Graecen said she should never have been called as a witness. "It insults all women who have been sexually harassed," she said.

The White House declined to comment.



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Visitors to the Bagatelle Gardens in the Bois de Boulogne in Paris are framed by a see-through sculpture, *Ichthoscope*, by François-Xavier Lalanne. 150 works by Lalanne and his wife Claude will be on show until August 2

### Europe's hopefuls given a taste of conflict

FROM CHARLES BREMNER  
IN BRUSSELS

THE future members of the EU were given a glimpse yesterday of the Union's fierce resistance to reform when ministers unleashed a torrent of criticism on plans to revamp Europe's lavish farm spending.

The Brussels blueprint for heavy cuts in subsidies was given its first airing at a session of agriculture ministers, chaired by Jack Cunningham, the British Minister, as Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, was opening membership negotiations for Cyprus and five former communist states. Reform in the Common Agricultural Policy, which costs half the EU budget, is deemed by Britain, the European Commission and a handful of member states to be essential before the EU can expand.

Several EU states vowed to fight any cuts in the system, which fixes high prices for beef, cereals and milk. Commission officials played down the attacks from France, Germany, Ireland and the EU's southern states as routine posturing ahead of tough negotiations that is expected to last more than a year.

However, the impact was magnified by the decision to feed television coverage to the media and other visitors. Outside the building, Belgian riot police, with water cannon at the ready, set up barbed-wire to hold back some 2,000 German and Italian farmers who were staging a protest.

Ireland set the tone with an implied threat to use its national veto. Joe Walsh, its Agriculture Minister, said: "My country has been seriously and disproportionately disadvantaged... and I wish to record Ireland's rejection with all the emphasis I can command."

For Germany, Jochen Borchert, said the reform would add £350 million a year to Bonn's EU farm bill. "The Titanic was a very beautiful ship but it still sank because it was on the wrong course. I wonder if the course is wrong here too," he said. Loyola Palacios, for Spain, said the reform violated the Treaty of Rome, the EU's founding charter, because it passed enlargement costs to farmers.

## Italy joins Schengen frontier-free club

The move has exacerbated fears that Europe will be invaded by refugees and migrants, writes Richard Owen

BRUSHING aside accusations that it is unable to hold back a mounting "human tide" of refugees, asylum seekers and illegal immigrants, Italy was today admitted to full membership of the Schengen agreement on a border-free Europe.

The abolition of passport controls at land and sea frontiers to other Schengen member states means that travellers can enter European countries to which Italy has links by land or sea as if making a domestic journey. They can then make their way to any other Schengen member without hindrance.

Italy has land borders with Schengen members Austria and France, and ships run from Italian ports to France and Spain. Passports were abolished for air travellers to Schengen countries from Italian airports last October.

The move has aroused fears that Europe will be invaded by the refugees and immigrants who arrive almost daily on the Italian coast in small, high-powered craft run by criminal groups. Italian coastguards admit that their patrol boats

are outclassed by the faster smugglers' craft.

Because of its proximity to Albania, Turkey and North Africa, and its apparent inability to police effectively a 5,000-mile coastline — almost the distance from London to Beijing — Italy has faced opposition from other members of the Schengen club, which embraces France, Belgium, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Germany, Spain, Portugal and Austria (although not Britain and Ireland). Rome this week agreed to take back 56 Kosovan asylum seekers who had been "dumped" in Britain by Alitalia, on the orders of Italian police, even though under the Dublin Convention asylum seekers are supposed to be dealt with by the first EU country they arrive in — in this case, Italy.

Piero Fassino, the Deputy

Foreign Minister, said Italy must ensure that police and intelligence computer co-operation was sufficiently efficient to "prevent infiltration by criminals and illegal immigrants". Italy was "not a leaky sieve", he insisted.

The Schengen accords are due to be extended to Norway, Sweden, Finland, Iceland and Denmark, all of which share Dutch and German suspicions that Italy is the "soft underbelly of Europe".

There are a million legally registered immigrants in Italy, but estimates suggest there are nearly another million illegal immigrants. Many of the growing number of prostitutes in Italian cities are African or Albanian, and at almost every street junction there are Moroccans, Tamils or Kurds washing wind-screens for a living. Some turn to petty crime and drug deal-

ing. Many North Africans and Asians land on islands near Sicily, from where they can enter the Italian mainland.

Signor Fassino said Italy was negotiating with Turkey, Greece and Cyprus to stop illegal immigration, and said 16,000 Albanians who came to Italy last year had been repatriated. Giorgio Napolitano, the Interior Minister, said 54,000 *clandestini* had been sent back in 1996. But several thousand Albanians, Kurds and others have landed on Italy's southern coast since Christmas. The Foreign Ministry said Italian diplomats in Bangkok, Manila, Algiers, Cairo and Belgrade were being investigated for "irregularities in issuing visas".

Italian officials point out that under new legislation, immigrants found entering or living in Italy illegally will be "taken to the border post and expelled immediately". Under previous rules all immigrants were entitled to a 15-day stay, after which those whose requests for asylum were turned down were simply issued with "expulsion orders" but not physically deported.



Straw: a warning for bogus asylum seekers

### EU police 'dumping' refugees on Britain

BY RICHARD FORD  
HOME CORRESPONDENT

JACK STRAW yesterday accused some police in the EU of using Britain as a dumping ground for bogus asylum seekers.

The Home Secretary said they sought to evade their responsibilities by sending unwanted immigrants on to British ports and airports.

Mr Straw, who did not identify the countries involved, said: "There are some frontier police in some European countries who are seeking to avoid their own problems by pushing them (asylum seekers) on to the United Kingdom."

He was speaking after Italy sent 56 Kosovans to Britain at the weekend. Also, 900 refugees have arrived from Belgium aboard the Eurostar.

Mr Straw said the UK would not be a soft touch for would-be asylum seekers. "I am taking as tough and effective action as is possible within the law and those who do turn up abusively seeking asylum will find themselves detained if there are good reasons for detaining them."

"So no asylum seeker should get the idea that if they do turn up in this country they will be dealt with leniently, because they won't be," Mr Straw said.

The 56 Kosovans are to return to Rome within the next 48 hours after the Italian Government agreed to take them back following the intervention of the Home Secretary.

The Kosovans arrived at Heathrow on an Alitalia flight on Saturday. Twenty-eight are being held in a detention centre and the rest were given temporary permission to enter Britain.

### 'Idiot box' is claiming 11 years of life

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

THE average American spends the equivalent of 11 years in front of a television set over a 72-year lifespan, according to a non-profit organisation that campaigns against the "idiot box".

The group, TV-Free America, has released the statistics in advance of "National TV Turnoff Week" this month. Begun by the group in 1995 — and emulated in Britain, Canada, Denmark and Australia — the week is designed to make couch potatoes aware of the "damage to the health of individuals, families and entire communities" caused by tele-addiction. Television is

blamed, among other things, for insomnia, depression, obesity, illiteracy and profligate spending. According to the group's figures, the average American watches 3.7 hours of television a day, which adds up to about 56 days a year. Extrapolated over a lifetime, this "total television time" amounts to about 11 years.

The average household has 2.5 sets, and nearly a third of all homes have three sets or more. A set is switched on for six hours and 47 minutes on average every day, and 66 per cent watch programmes while eating dinner.

Last year, Americans viewed for 250 billion hours: the value of that time, computed at an average wage of \$5 (£3) an hour, was \$1.25 trillion. Last year, six million videos were rented daily, matched by only three million books borrowed from libraries a day.

Children who watched four or more hours a day were significantly fatter than those watching fewer than two hours — having been robbed of exercise time and encouraged to consume high-calorie snacks and fizzy drinks.

Other studies have found that a steady diet of television has produced a generation of overstimulated, underactive children who have more trouble deferring gratification or developing a contemplative mind.

Earlier this month, researchers at the Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Centre found a direct correlation between juvenile obesity and the hours spent watching.

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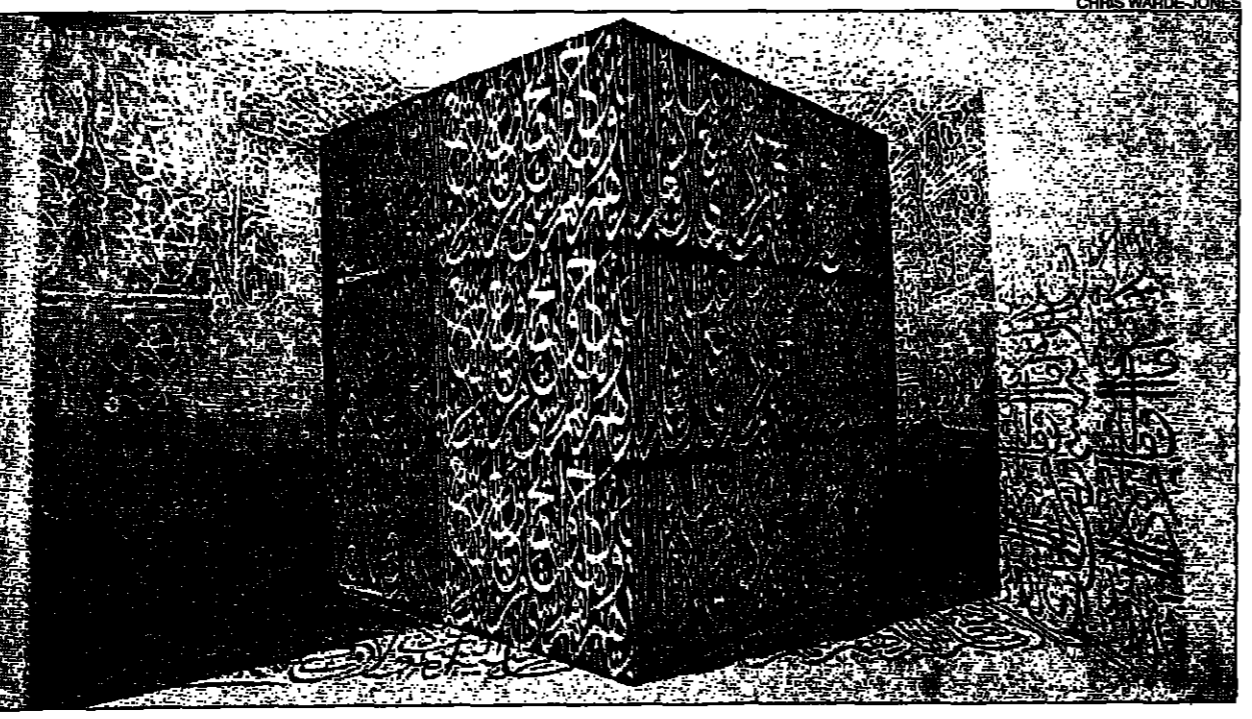
6 A TV set is  
switched on  
for six hours  
47 minutes  
on average  
every day

### British addicts face challenge to turn off

BRITISH TV Turnoff Week — April 22-28 — coincides with some attractive viewing: not least the fate of Deirdre Rachid in *Coronation Street*, jailed for a crime she did not commit (writes Carol Midgley, Media Correspondent).

The *White Dot* also picked a bad week for sporting fixtures. England's World Cup warm-up friendly match with Portugal is being broadcast by Sky, with highlights on ITV. The Grand Prix in San Marino will also be shown on ITV on April 26.

The first episode of *A Respectable Trade*, the BBC's four-part period drama about the slave market expected to attract more than 10 million viewers, is to be broadcast in Turnoff Week, when ITV also begins screening *The Untouchables*, a drama about an unidentified First World War soldier found wandering naked on battlefields.



Interior in the Exterior, by Ahmed Moustafa, dominates the first exhibition of works by a Muslim artist staged at the Vatican this week. It is a move seen as part of the Pope's attempt at reconciling the world's three monotheistic religions — Islam, Judaism and Christianity — for the millennium (Richard Owen writes). Cardinal Francis Arinze of Nigeria said the work of Moustafa, who was born in Egypt but lives and works in Britain, was a mark of "the hope that Christians and Muslims can accept one another's differences and work together". Cardinal Arinze said the artist had been chosen by the Vatican because he drew on "a common stream of mystical experience".

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# Is 17 too young for marriage?

Will marriage solve Macaulay Culkin's problems, asks Jason Cowley while, below, Bill Frost hears of the joy and anger that teenage weddings can bring

At an age when most teenagers' heads are full of rebellion and adventure, Macaulay Culkin, the former child star of the *Home Alone* movie series, has announced that he is to marry his girlfriend, Rachel Miner. They are both 17.

A global icon before he was ten, Culkin has always been an actor in a hurry, recklessly embracing experience, confidently one step ahead of his peers. But marriage, so soon? Is this the result of a harmless teenage infatuation, the intoxication of first love? As Culkin has put it: "We're so happy and proud we have found each other at such a young age." Or is this something darker and more complicated, whose roots lie in the loneliness of his home life? Given that marriages between teenagers are four times as likely to end in divorce as those between couples older than 25, can it ever be wise to marry at 17?

The career of Culkin, like that of Drew Barrymore and other Hollywood child stars, assumes a familiar trajectory: mass adulation and outlandish wealth followed, inevitably, by alienation, dysfunction and terminal teenage boredom. Rumours of burnout, too, and of bizarre behaviour — such as his close friendship with Michael Jackson, another lost boy, with whom Culkin was seen shopping in Los Angeles wearing a false nose and beard; and his wild, drunken parties that led neighbours to call Culkin's New York apartment "party central".

The past three years have been especially traumatic for Culkin, whose childhood was spent in cramped poverty in a two-bedroom apartment in Yorkville, the German-American neighbourhood of Manhattan. At times he has resembled a piece of straw caught in the whirlwind of his parents' disintegrating relationship, blown from one side of a New York courtroom to the other, the central player in a fierce, protracted battle for custody rights and control of his faltering career.

The allegations were wounding. Kit Culkin, the failed actor who had master-

mind his son's startling rise, was accused by Patricia Brentrup, his partner of more than 20 years, of domestic violence, alcoholism and neglect. (One of the more surprising revelations to emerge during the hearing was that Kit and Patricia, who met as teenagers in Sundance, Wyoming, were not married.) Kit was also reported to have beaten his son for failing to tidy his room. He responded by accusing his wife of infidelity and indolence, and his son of indiscipline.

What gave the proceedings a frenetic charge was that, apart from personal pride, the matter at stake was nothing less than control of the Macaulay Culkin millions. *Home Alone* grossed more than £500 million, and his fortune is estimated at anything between £10 million and £25 million.

In the event, Brentrup won custody of her son and his five siblings, but Macaulay was granted access to his own money, so that he could help to ease the family's financial difficulties.

There is little doubt that Culkin was wounded by his parents' public expression of mutual contempt. He became morose, introspective, constantly smoking and withdrawing to his Manhattan apartment — "Sulkin" Culkin" to the gossip press. In a strange domestic arrangement, his parents based themselves in separate apartments in the same block as their son, a constant reminder of what had gone wrong.

Culkin is at a crucial stage in his career, suspended between the immense promise of his childhood and a stuttering attempt to redefine himself as something other than a novelty act. His most recent films — *The Pagemaster*, *Richie Rich* and the resonantly titled *Getting Even with Dad* — were critical and commercial failures. But he is not entirely forgotten. Recent parties offered to him include the role of a tattooed assassin in a forthcoming film called *The Body Piercer*, and the role of Michael Alig, self-styled leader of the Manhattan "club kids", who is in a New

**'Is this the result of first love or something darker?'**



Macaulay Culkin and his fiancée, 17-year-old Rachel Miner. The former child star's rapid rise to fame and fortune was followed by a troubled adolescence

York penitentiary charged with the murder of his homosexual lover. Clearly, Culkin will consider anything that might release him from the prison of his past, from the memory of the cute little boy with blond hair and flapping ears he once was.

Dorothy Rowe, the author and psychotherapist, is moved by Culkin's plight. She suggests that his engagement to Rachel Miner, a little-known stage actress, can be seen as a plea for stability. She draws a comparison to the experience of Elizabeth

Taylor, another former child star, who married in her teens and has spent the rest of her life searching for an elusive domestic happiness.

"Her early career was controlled by her mother," Rowe says, "and by getting married, it was as if she was trying to carve out her own identity. I think Culkin is doing something similar, positioning himself against the chaos of his father, showing that he can have a stable domestic life. It's a bold gamble."

So will marriage offer Macaulay Culkin the lost happiness he seeks? Not if you listen to Oliver James, the clinical psychologist and author of *Britain on the Couch*. "I think Macaulay is making a terrible mistake," James says. "Statistically, children of divorcees tend to marry younger, probably because they are more insecure about relationships. At a deeper level, too, they might be looking to repair the damage done to them by their parents, so that their marriage becomes an act of

repair. As for Culkin, everything is stacked against him, especially as teenage marriages have a high failure rate.

"Add to this the fact that he is American (the United States has even higher divorce rates than Britain), in showbusiness, getting married in his teens and the product of a broken relationship — well, the odds on his relationship surviving are infinitesimally small."

If so, Macaulay Culkin is a poor little rich boy indeed.

## 'Age has nothing to do with it'

Julie Burchill's voice rises an octave in horror as she recalls her days of youthful courtship and life as a teenage bride: 20 years on, the memories still rankle.

Ardently courted in the late Seventies by her fellow rock journalist Tony Parsons, she forgot her contempt for middle-class morals and conformity long enough to choose a frock and get married. With the benefit of hindsight, she now describes the relationship as one of the worst mistakes she has ever made.

On the surface they were the young media couple: glamorous, successful and almost as famous as those they wrote about in *New Musical Express*. "It wasn't a case of marrying in haste or marrying too young," says Burchill. "I was 17 when we started going out, 19 when we married. We just weren't cut out for each other. We wouldn't have made it at any age."

"We shared too many experiences and too many friends — we did the same job. There was no diversity, nothing one could tell the other that he or she didn't already know."

There were other problems, too, says Burchill, now a 38-year-old living in Brighton and horrified by her youthful lack of judgment. "We married in 1979 — don't ask why, I'm prejudiced on the subject — and within weeks he had moved me from London to Billericay, in Essex, the worst place in the world."

She cannot explain why she agreed to move but recalls her days in suburbia with loathing. "We moved to be closer to his parents. That should have warned me what was to come. "Billericay really was the end of the marriage. There



Rocky marriage: Julie Burchill and Tony Parsons in 1977

wasn't even a tea shop on the high street; if you fancied a cuppa, it had to be at home — frankly, the place was hell."

She says Parsons decided to move to Essex because he feared the competition in London; feared she might fall for another. "He was very possessive, always around my neck. I was so clever and fantastically pretty that he was scared of me running off with someone else. The relationship became very boring."

Despite the problems, Parsons stayed faithful. Burchill is irritated by any suggestion that he may have "played away" once he realised the marriage was over: "Tony did not cheat on me. In fact, he was too clinging."

"When he eventually trusted me enough, we went to London for a party. Tony's fear proved prophetic because it was there I met a new man [the writer Cosmo Landesman] and ran off with him."

She wishes Macaulay Culkin well and says that if

the couple marry, his "showbusiness stories and experience might keep the vital spark glowing" in the relationship, "which is a great deal more than I can say about my time with Tony."

In contrast — although they, like Burchill and Parsons, come from stable families — Chris and Carmel Lamb's story of teenage love and marriage has lasted almost 25 years. They met as students in Brighton and defied their parents by becoming engaged.

The couple, now in their

forties, fell in love during their first term at art school. Both were 17 and virgins. "While everybody else was playing the field and smoking pot, we were making wedding plans. It seemed to both of us that we had met our life partner," says Chris, a graphic designer and father of three teenagers.

Carmel agrees that they were ideally suited from the start. "A lot of people thought I was too young and that we would drift apart. But we have grown even closer as we get older."

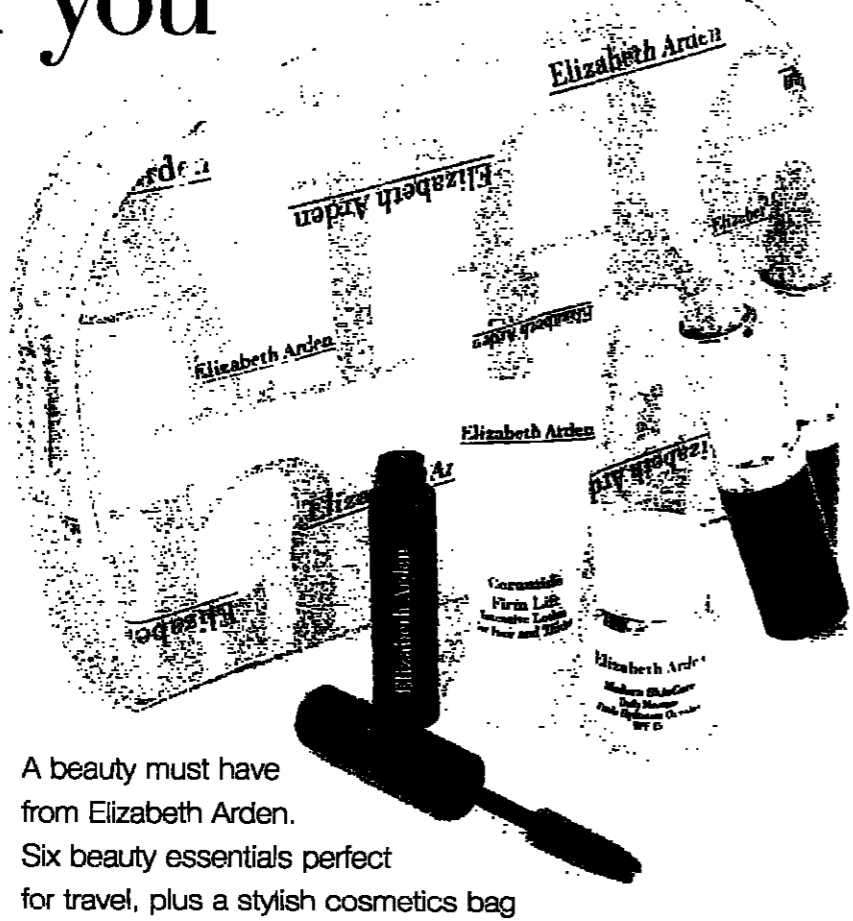
Both sets of parents tried to talk them out of it. Chris's father offered him money to travel for a year if he broke off with Carmel. The wedding was boycotted by some of the family, and their honeymoon was a winter weekend in Seaford, East Sussex.

"At 17 we were both ready to make the commitment, we were in love and knew instinctively that the relationship was going to last — and it has," says Chris.

Would they let their own teenagers take such a giant step? "Of course," says Carmel. "One is a young adult at 17, more so now than when we were that age. You are old enough to know your heart and your mind."

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# 'I used to feel that time with the children was time stolen'

### Have two high-powered job-sharers found a way to have it all? Interview by Carol Midgley

In a recent documentary series, the BBC devoted several hours of prime-time television to exploring a great dilemma of the modern age. *Having It All* asked whether women can ever realistically satisfy the urges of both motherhood and ambition, or if trying to raise a family while pursuing a career will inevitably condemn them to feelings of guilt, frustration and personal inadequacy.

Ironically, the answer may have been sitting right under the BBC's nose all along. For the first time, the corporation has allowed two people to share the job of one programme editor, so that each can spend more time with her children. The staff of *The World Tonight*, one of Radio 4's key current affairs programmes, now have two bosses — Prue Keely and Jenni Russell.

Job-sharing itself is not uncommon. More than 700,000 people in Britain, most of them women, fill half of one full-time job. What is almost unprecedented, however, is that an employer has allowed such a senior executive position — one traditionally associated with strong leadership and singleness of vision — to be divided between two people.

Prue Keely and Jenni Russell, who approached the BBC with the idea, insist their joint assignment will work. But they know it has been greeted with cynicism from some colleagues who believe the idea is unworkable. If their critics are

right, they know it will simply encourage those who believe women must accept that they cannot have their cake and eat it. If they succeed, however, such job-sharing could well become the model for the future at the BBC and other organisations, throwing a lifeline to thousands of mothers torn between home and high-powered jobs.

Until February, Ms Russell, 37, was working full-time as the editor of policy and social programmes for Radio 5 Live. Although she loved her job, she says she was beginning to feel like a bit-part player in the lives of her children, Jessica, nine, and Harry, six. She had never met her daughter's teacher and felt that her maternal role was being demoted into merely looking in on the children at night. Her husband, Stephen Lambert, the editor of the BBC's *Modern Times*, also works long hours, and so the couple were dependent on their full-time nanny.

Prue Keely, 51, had already been working part-time for Channel 4 as the producer of *First Edition*. She spent years working for *Channel 4 News*, but always resisted working full-time for the sake of her children, George, 13 and Archie, ten. Also, she was able to do voluntary work with an NHS care trust.

"There were points in my life when I felt horribly cut off from my children," says Ms Russell. "There was this terrifying feeling of not really



Sharing the executive job: Radio 4 editors Prue Keely and Jenni Russell have set a precedent at the BBC

knowing them. There are these two wonderful children and I was missing out on so much of their lives. I was feeling guilty a lot of the time."

Having had a string of unsuitable nannies, Ms Russell found the days she did have off were spent tidying the house while the nanny took out the children because cleaning was not part of her job description.

Ms Keely, whose husband is the chairman of the Financial Services Authority, adds: "The point is that you don't have children not to spend time with them. But that doesn't mean that you don't want a job that is interesting and stimulating while being a mother."

"I have always had an au pair. My kids have always had that feeling of me being around and I wanted to carry it on. I thought that I would always regret it if they hit their teens and I had not seen them grow up. Working part-time has always suited me. It is also very productive, because

you make better use of your time when you are at work. You are much more focused. But, of course, Jenni and I are very lucky in that we have husbands with good jobs and we can afford to take less money. The women have been friends for eight years and decided to apply for the job together. "We had no idea what the reaction was going to be. For all we knew they could have just dismissed it. As it happens, they were fantastic," they say.

They had good reason to be pessimistic. The Equal Opportunities Commission says job sharing at executive level is virtually non-existent because employers are reluctant to dilute key jobs. Last year Janet Schofield won £20,000 in a landmark test case against her employer, Zurich Insurance, when it refused to let her share her job as marketing support manager. It had said she was "too important". Employers were duly warned that they face legal action if they are not prepared to allow executives to share jobs.

Staff also often complain about having two masters. One BBC insider not connected with the programme says:

"Job shares are great for the shareholders — but not so brilliant for those who have to work underneath them full-time. There tend to be a lot of communication problems, having to say things twice all the time, which can drive you mad."

The benefits of job-sharing are that it promotes a positive image of the company, helps to retain experienced staff, and gives the department a complement of skills. And as Ms Russell and Ms Keely point out, it will enable them to stay in touch with real life, rather than making programmes from within a journalistic ivory tower.

"You can become completely obsessed with internal office politics and that gets in the way of making the best possible programme," says Ms

Keely. "In a big organisation it is hard to get out and have that fresh-air feel that we want. For instance, 20 years ago the programme would have been about the Cold War, but now we are looking at things that are relevant to modern people's lives, such as sexual morality or whether step-families work."

Ms Keely says she chose to continue her voluntary work because it helped to give her a wider view of society. "Journalists spend so much time talking to other journalists and politicians and people in the office that they forget what's really going on out there."

Under their arrangement they work either Monday and Tuesday, or Thursday and Friday. Both of them came in on Wednesdays. "We knew we had to have that crossover day and the BBC agreed to it, so we were delighted," says Ms Russell.

"We talk all the time, even when one of us is at home. It is really nice to share things. If we disagree on something, we just talk to one another and sort it out. You can do things in a collegiate way and there is

a big advantage in having a second brain. Both are quick to dismiss the suggestion that, for egotistical reasons, men may not be as suited to executive job-sharing as women. "There are a lot of very capable men in this organisation whom I had always assumed would want to work full-time but who turned round and said 'My God, why didn't you ask me?' when I told them what I was doing," says Ms Russell.

"Men love their children as much as we do and I think they get a bad deal. They should not have to do this jacket-on-the-back-of-the-chair thing. There is a bad culture developing. People are under pressure to work longer and longer hours."

Ms Russell says her children are thrilled with the new arrangement. "They are absolutely joyful. They work out which are Mummy's non-working days and really look forward to me being there. And when I am at home it isn't as intense. They are not trying to grab my attention all the time. One of the best things is not feeling guilty about the fact you are at work. I used to feel that time with the children was stolen time. Their teacher didn't know who I was until a few weeks ago because the nanny always picked them up. "It is also better at work because you are not as distracted thinking about home."

## ARTS

### It's not the Friel thing: Benedict Nightingale reviews Brian Friel's new play

Pages 33-35

# Why it's no longer cool to be cool

### Nick Foulkes on the fast-changing game of social one-upmanship

Tara Palmer-Tomkinson has apparently got rid of her mobile phone because people insisted on calling her on it. Presumably the poor lamb was faced with the impossible dilemma of having to answer it or letting it ring. Simpler by far to do without it.

This is important news, and not just for providers of mobile telephones — I am glad I sold my Vodafone shares before I heard. The real significance of this gesture lies in its implications for social one-upmanship.

Some of us can remember a time when it was actually fashionable to receive calls on one's cellular phone. People would proudly compare telephones, brag about battery life, and natter on about a myriad features.

But when public transport became full of people telephoning each other to say that they were on their mobile phones, there was only one thing for a fashion leader of Tara's status to do: ditch the mobile.

Tara's latest stand is only the most public example of what so many fashionable metropolitan types are trying to do. As the whirligig of fashion spins ever faster, so the need to distance oneself from *hoi polloi*, by whatever means possible, becomes more pressing.

but only if the word is pronounced with stress on the taxicab, fanTASTic. As a useful rule of thumb, when something is seen everywhere, be it Gucci kitten heels or a certain type of training shoe, it is time to dump it. There is even a school of thought that argues that a training shoe ceases to be truly chic the moment that it becomes commercially available in the United Kingdom.

When dropping something, it is best to do it publicly. Tara has, of course, got the right idea and uses her agent to signal her communication dilemma — and her grasp of social one-upmanship — to a grateful world. Others call press conferences or give in-



Turned off: mobile phones

So Byzantine is the nature of being *branché* that one might be handed a card by someone listing a panoply of communication options including home phone, office phone, fax, e-mail, Website and mobile.

This, of course, has nothing to do with keeping in touch, but is merely a potent demonstration of technological proficiency and general up-to-the-minute-ness. Should one lose the card and try to trace the person through the telephone book, he or she will inevitably be ex-directory.

When dealing with anything fashion-related, timing is everything. Cool *Britannia* is, of course, anything but. As soon as the Government hijacked dismembered sheep, Britpop *et al*, it was time to move on. And while fashion

learnings twitter about the Pharmacy, the really low-temperature crowd is hanging out at White's Club watching the cricket.

Indeed, I believe that even the word cool is well past its sell-by date. I am told that the new way of expressing approval is to say that a new restaurant, hairstyle, type of yoga or whatever is fantastic.

terviews to demonstrate their social and stylistic superiority. Indeed, one of the most weighty, and perhaps apocryphal, pronouncements by a London style leader ran something like this: "My wife and I used to eat sea bass until it became a cliché."

However, not all of us can afford an agent or have the gravitas to call a press conference every time we change our dietary habits. Therefore we have to issue our own personal level. Usually a pointed remark along the lines of "that's so five minutes ago" or something like "he is still eating modern British/Fusion/Rim" goes a long way to establishing one's credentials.

Early trend watcher Nancy Mitford had it easy when she put together *Noblesse Oblige*, and even the *Sloane Ranger Handbook* could at least count on a lifestyle trend lasting longer than half an hour. Today current usage changes so rapidly that one is "over it", as they say in fashion circles, well before it has reached the common herd.

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**"We had no idea what the reaction would be. The BBC could have just dismissed the idea"**

Keely. "In a big organisation it is hard to get out and have that fresh-air feel that we want. For instance, 20 years ago the programme would have been about the Cold War, but now we are looking at things that are relevant to modern people's lives, such as sexual morality or whether step-families work."

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# Bushmen sent into the sunset

## Sandy Gall laments the land where diamonds don't mean life

President Clinton's visit to Botswana, said to be one of the most democratic countries in Africa — as well as one of the richest, thanks to its diamonds — is unlikely to bring much succour to its dwindling and persecuted population of Bushmen. For as the President, the First Lady and their entourage admired the elephants in Chobe National Park, and discussed conservation in the capital, Gaborone, the last of the Bushmen in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve (CKGR) were being moved from their homelands to make way for tourism and diamonds.

I have just returned from a week in Molapo, the most important of the six Bushman villages left in the CKGR and, at 54,000 square kilometres, one of the world's largest game parks. During my stay, officials from the Ghanzi District Council, which is in charge of the area, were camped in the village, moving people out. Five or six rondavels made of poles thatched with grass had been pulled down and loaded on to council lorries along with the three families who owned them, and driven off in the direction of New Xade, a bleak settlement just outside the reserve. Among them was one man who was being made to leave, despite the fact that his father was dying.

The Bushmen of Molapo, who have hunted and gathered in this area for 40,000 years and more, are clearly deeply attached to their land. Mothambo, Roy Sesana's elder brother, expressed it in his own way. Picking up a handful of Kalahari sand, he let it trickle through his fingers. "We are made the same as the sand," he said. "We were born here. This is our land."

The Government's own reasons for wanting to relocate the Bushmen are wildlife conservation, tourism and exploitation of minerals, of which the latter is clearly paramount. As the largest producer of gem stones in the world, Botswana's diamonds have made huge profits for De Beers, the South African mining giant, and the Botswana Government. Rich deposits are rumoured to lie under the sands of the CKGR, where De Beers has large concessions, one being at Gope, where the villagers are also under threat.

Roy Sesana believes the real reason the Government wants to remove the remaining Bushmen from the CKGR — only about 370 remain today compared with about 2,000 in 1965 — is to block any claims to the diamond wealth of the area. These were made again by First People at a recent meeting with President Masire, on the eve of his retirement. Disorganised and poorly funded as they are, First People have support from human rights groups in America and Britain, including Survival International. Conscious, perhaps, that the issue of land and mineral rights might provoke adverse publicity, De Beers recently commissioned a South African anthropologist, James Suzman, a nephew of Helen Suzman, South Africa's most distinguished white liberal politician, to undertake an independent inquiry in the CKGR. However, the Botswana Government refused permission. This is a pity, because what might have come out of it, among other things, is the case for a new kind of tourism in the Kalahari based on what is still a vibrant and fascinating Bushman community.

**The same as the sand, we were born here, this is our land**

Another old man said he had agreed to move because officials told him "everyone else has agreed to leave". When he found it was untrue, he came back.

The Botswana Government says it is persuading, not forcing, the Bushmen to leave for their own good. But Roy Sesana, chairman of First People of the Kalahari, a Bushman human rights group, disputes this. The Government, he says, is mixing bribery and threat, falsely promising people enough money "to buy two cars", and at the same time reducing amenities by closing down boreholes and limiting visits by mobile clinics.

Despite the pressure I found most of the hundred or so people still living in Molapo, determined to resist. One of the senior women in the village, still handsome and energetic, gave me the fullest account of what happens. "They [the officials] say we have come to pour money over you. We will take down your houses and help you to move towards the sunset — but I don't want to move towards the sunset, because that is where you die. They say to you you must discourage any visitors from staying and camping here. You just want visitors' tea [money]. This is not your land, you stole this land. You are finishing [off] the game, you have stolen the land and killed the game."

I asked if, as had been reported in *The Times*, people who refused to move had been threatened with the army. She replied: "For a long time they have said if you don't move then the army will come in to move you. But we haven't seen

the army. They also say they will drop a bomb on us if we don't move... I was born here, my mother suckled me here, so I will not move."

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Handled sensitively, this high-cost, low-impact cultural tourism — advocated in principle by the Botswana Government itself — would generate income for the Bushmen. In the opinion of several far-sighted tour operators in Botswana, it is probably the only way tourism can be made to pay in the beautiful but harsh and remote conditions of one of Africa's last great wildernesses.

In his *Testament to the Bushman*, Laurens van der Post wrote in 1984: "The destruction of the Bushman is the destruction of the best in all mankind." One hopes it is still not too late to avert the final catastrophe.



# Crisis, what crisis?

## A strong pound is painful, but we can still be competitive, explains Anatole Kaletsky

**Y**ou may be confused about the sudden "sterling crisis" that seems to be engulfing British industry and threatening to turn our hard-earned prosperity back into recession and unemployment. Since when is a rising currency a symptom of economic disaster? Surely it used to be a collapsing pound that produced the great sterling crises of the past. Don't worry — the so-called experts are even more confused than you are.

In 20 years of following the tides of fashions in economic policy and financial markets, I have never seen such utter bewilderment in the City, in industry and, above all, in the Treasury and the Bank of England. The strengthening of the pound, which began nearly two years ago, and received a further boost from Gordon Brown's decision to grant independence to the Bank of England, was fairly predictable on economic grounds. Yet almost nobody, either in the City or in British industry, believed it could really happen. Two months ago Reuters conducted its regular quarterly survey of City foreign exchange forecasters. Every one of these forecasters predicted that sterling would fall. Instead the pound has, of course, risen like a rocket in the two months since these forecasts were published. Beyond the nearly unanimous misconception that the pound is always bound to fall, nobody seems to agree on anything when it comes to sterling.

If foreigners are pouring their savings into sterling, is this a portent of disaster or a vote of confidence in Britain? Is the world of finance beating a path to the pound as a safe haven from the European single currency, or are the markets punishing Britain for refusing to join? Is the pound now so high that Britain will become an industrial wasteland or is the British business community just engaged in whingeing as usual, looking for someone else to blame for their own managerial failings?

If the pound really is dangerously high, who should be blamed: the Chancellor, the Bank of England, the hedge fund speculators or the whole mad system of wild, unregulated global financial markets? Finally, does this latest period of instability prove that Britain should join the single currency to escape future gyrations of sterling, or does it illustrate the dangers of tying the country into a monetary straitjacket

when economic conditions demand such large currency swings? Questions like this have no rational answers. A rising currency is neither a bird of ill omen nor a totem of national virility. Sterling's exchange rate is just a price established by supply and demand for worldwide goods, services and assets. The point of having an independent currency is to let a national economy adjust to the constant changes in economic conditions, both at home and abroad, in ways the people and politicians see fit. After the last general election Britain chose a combination of low

capital goods cheaper and puts pressure on British firms to become more efficient or to move into more specialised products and services. German, Japanese, American and French companies have responded to strong exchange rates by increasing investment, redesigning products and limiting export costs. But average productivity in Britain's factories is still so far below the levels in America, Japan, Germany and France that there should be plenty of scope for improvement — especially as employment costs in Britain are still 40 per cent lower than they are in western Germany and 10 per cent lower than in America, even with the pound above DM3. Unfortunately, average productivity in British manufacturing has actually declined in the two years since the pound took off, while wages have risen sharply. In Germany, by contrast, wages have remained almost constant (albeit at a very high level) in the same period, while productivity has risen by 20 per cent. The pincer movement of rising wages and stagnant productivity is as much to blame as the strong pound for many British manufacturers' present misfortunes.

There is obviously a limit to how much can be achieved by raising productivity and improving the quality of products — as both Germany and Japan found to their cost in the mid-1990s. And even if an economy does adjust successfully to a strong exchange rate, the result is usually a shift of employment and output from basic manufacturing industry to services and more specialised production. Such a shift is bound to cause social dislocations and to produce pockets of unemployment, but in the long term it is probably inevitable as more and more manufacturing work is either replaced by robots or undertaken in low-wage developing countries. Whether a shift in output from manufacturing to

services is economically desirable and socially acceptable will depend on whether the blue-collar workers made redundant by technology and low-cost competition can find new jobs. In other words, the real test of a country's competitiveness is not the survival of particular industries or the number of jobs they offer; it is the total rate of unemployment and the combined balance of payments for the economy as a whole.

On these measures, Britain's performance remains surprisingly good and suggests that the strength of the pound has so far been reasonably underpinned by economic fundamentals. Manufacturers who complain about their loss of competitiveness are right to do so; they could obviously be making bigger profits with a cheaper pound. But the pressure on profits for many exporters does not necessarily imply that the British economy as a whole is uncompetitive at around the present exchange rate. Analysts who insist that the pound is vastly overvalued seem to forget that last year Britain recorded its biggest current account surplus since 1983 — and 1997 was a year when domestic consumption was booming, while our main European trading partners were only just starting to crawl out from their worst recession since the Second World War.

**C**onsider yesterday's front-page headlines, beginning with our own: "Dilemma for Brown as pound soars — industry threatened with recession." This was perfectly true, although my wife, who is generally uninterested in economics, posed the obvious question: Why is this a dilemma for Mr Brown? He isn't responsible for interest rates any longer, so surely it's a dilemma for the Bank of England?

None of this means that the pound will keep rising forever. It may not even remain above DM3 for very long. All financial markets tend to overshoot, and this certainly includes exchange rates. But businesses would be rash to bet that the pound will return in the foreseeable future to the extremely low exchange rate they enjoyed in the 'fat years' after Black Wednesday — or to believe that by joining the single currency they could magically return to the days when their profits were fattened by a freakishly cheap pound.

Simon Jenkins is away.

### Is a high pound a portent of disaster or vote of confidence in Britain?

job. "I will be leaving at some stage but I am not prepared to go into the precise timing," he says with the grandeur of a true statesman. He is thought to have grown frustrated as grown-ups such as Alastair Campbell have pushed him aside. One suggestion is that Lord Hollick, that generous socialist newspaper baron, may have taken pity on the young pup. Despite staffing problems, the PM clearly has no intention of stopping him going.

● **THE pitfalls of local democracy:** David Lepper, the Labour MP for Brighton Pavilion, has been seeking the views of his constituents in his local newsletter about whether "blood alcohol limits should be reduced to prevent drinking and driving". All respondents will be entered for a draw. The prize? A bottle of champagne.

● **Dry run** WILLIAM HAGUE and Paddy Ashdown have joined forces to fight the problem of incontinence. Both have signed the *Continence Charter*, with Hague adding his own special plea for people to have "confidence that they will receive quality continence care". The Continence Campaign says this is a breakthrough: "It is a very dry is-



BETTE MIDLER, the outrageous American comedienne (above left), plans to storm the West End with a role made famous by the woman she was named after. The divine Miss M is talking to a senior London producer, rumoured to be Cameron Mackintosh, to star in a musical of *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?* In the 1962 film, Bette Davis (right) played the unbalanced Baby Jane opposite her off-screen nemesis Joan Crawford. Once a child star, Jane torments her wheelchair-bound sister (Crawford). Finding a co-star could be tricky.



● **I THINK this is what is called going for the sympathy vote.** Winchester Conservatives, still reeling from Gerry Malone's thumping by-election defeat last November, have taken to canvassing for their local candidates with the slogan: "He must be mad to stand as a Tory."

JASPER GERARD

## Alan Coren



### Totally floored by girls with the gloves on

**O**n the afternoon of June 28, 1949, my best friend David Paige came over to my house, and, it being a fine warm day, we went out into the back garden and took our shirts off, and he punched me in the stomach. I then punched him in the face. We carried on like this for a bit, until my mother opened the kitchen window and shouted that it was teatime, so David held his nose under the garden tap to stop it bleeding and I ran my finger along my teeth to make sure they could still handle a rock-cake, and we went inside and my mother put the plates and the Tizer on the table and asked if I wanted a cold flannel on my eye and I said no, and she said please yourself, but you won't be able to see out of it in the morning, and she was absolutely right, God bless her, it was the best thing to happen to me that summer: hitherto, girls had never taken the slightest interest in me, but when I turned up at Ostidge Primary next morning with an eye the size and colour of a King Edward's potato, five of them asked me if it hurt, three begged to touch it, and Stella Cox let me walk her home.

How, you inquire, can I be so sure of the date? I can be so sure of the date because it was the day after the eleventh birthday for which my father had bought me two pairs of boxing gloves, and David Paige was naturally the first person I wanted to punch, because he was my best friend. He was not, mind, called David Paige during our brief bout, he was called Freddie Mills, and I was called Bruce Woodcock: these two idols having, just three weeks previously, knocked seven bells out of one another for the British heavyweight championship, there was nobody else we could possibly have been.

Let us come now to the only excuse for all this maudlin reminiscence, Miss Jane Couch. For she is the women's world welterweight champion, but until last Monday she had been unable to fight professionally in this country because the British Boxing Board of Control had refused her a licence, on the grounds that she might be prone to harm in the ring if suffering premenstrual tension. However — though flies lucky enough to have been on the wall during these BBC discussions will still be rolling helplessly around — events have now moved dramatically on. Miss Couch, who is not known as the Fleetwood Assassin for nothing, refused to take this defeat lying down: she sprang up from the canvas, demanded a rematch under industrial tribunal rules, and, last Monday, got the decision, on sexual discrimination points. She is keenly looking forward to her first domestic match.

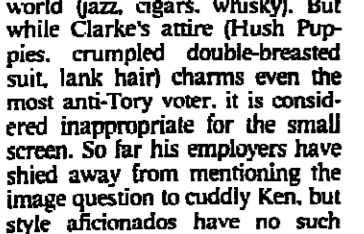
**B**ut I am not, I have, I know, to tread very warily here — *The Times* has a million feisty female readers, and the Crickwood Assassin is no longer in 1949 shape — yet how can I possibly rejoice for their new heroine when all I can think of, this morning, is the heroine-worship she is bound to inspire? Don't get me wrong: this isn't terror talking, I speak here not of the prospect of aerobics classes yielding fashionably to ringfight ones to the point where, say, an inadvertent trolley-clash will leave me measuring my length on the Waitrose floor, unnerving though that unquestionably is, but of the far more unsettling one of what Miss Couch's triumph will mean for the nation's infant girlhood. I speak it with all the authority of someone who was, once upon a time, Bruce Woodcock.

For they are all out there waiting, the tiny wannabes. Any day now, they will wannabe Jane Couch, they will wannabe assassins, they will wannabe Uppercut Spice and Left Jab Spice and Right Hook Spice, they will have birthdays, too, and their politically right-on daddies will not dare to resist the furious pleading. Oh sure, the daddies may attempt, initially, to fob them off with the Sugar Ray Barbies and Southpaw Sindies and My Little Flyweights which will be huckstered from the toy industry's bandwagon, but the kids will not settle for that. For the day must now inexorably come when little girls will insist on going over to their best friends' houses in order to thump them senseless.

Forgive me, female readers, call me unconstructed, I shall just have to handle it. What I can't handle is this image I have of little Stella Cox walking home, alone, with a cauliflower ear.

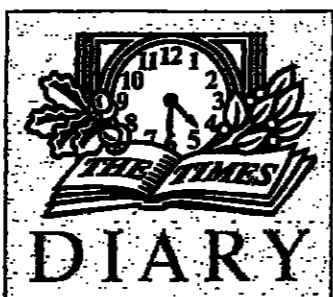
# Slim chance

KENNETH CLARKE has landed his first solo slot on television but has been urged to slim down to fit on to the small screen. The former Chancellor (below right), who sports more chins than the Beijing telephone directory, has been signed up by the wealthy Bloomberg Television, a financial news channel, to present his own, unique view. *Kenneth Clarke's Chronicle* provides analysis of the world of global investment, which, thankfully, will be spiced up with references to Ken's world (jazz, cigars, whisky). But while Clarke's attire (Hush Puppies, crumpled double-breasted suit, lank hair) charms even the most anti-Tory voter, it is considered inappropriate for the small screen. So far his employers have shied away from mentioning the image question to cuddly Ken, but style aficionados have no such qualms. Stephen Bayley (pictured), the Millennium Dome's former creative adviser, says Clarke must smarten up if he is to appeal to viewers (City swanks).



"If I was a friend, I would put him on 60 sit-ups a day. A decent haircut wouldn't harm either," Peter York says Clarke's shoes can stay, but serious problems remain. "You are only seen from the nipple down, but he must brush his hair back more. They have ladies who can do all these things. He is too fat and if you are even 5lb overweight on TV you end up looking like Mr Likes-a-drop."

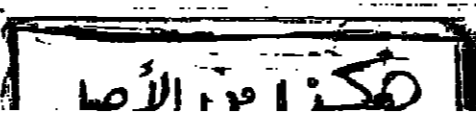
● **A TORTUOUS education** has its benefits. At the read-through for Sir Peter Hall's new production of *Major Barbara*, which opens at the Piccadilly in May, David Yelland found himself stumped by a line from Homer's *Odyssey*. "I can't read that," deadpanned the Oxbridge-educated actor to fellow cast members, among them Gemma Redgrave (granddaughter of Sir Michael) and Crispin Bonham-Carter, part of the sainted clan which includes the divine Helena and the great Liberal Prime Minister Herbert Asquith.



"Allow me," said the young B.C. before effortlessly reading, and translating, the line.

## Raring to go

THE original Blair whiz-kid has secured his escape route just a year after following his master into No 10. Tim Allan, a 28-year-old spin-doctor who latched on to Tony Blair as a self-propelled young graduate, has been telling friends that he has finally landed a proper job. It has been a long campaign, peppered by the odd dispiriting rejection letter, with most media empires unable to offer him the serious post he feels his talent demands. One of the few employers to show much interest was the Queen, but he rebuffed an advance because of naive republican sympathies. He is coy about his new







## HIS MASTER'S VOICE

Criticism of Campbell should be directed at Blair

The spin-doctor is to modern politics what the Druid was to Ancient Britain — a character supposedly possessed of supernatural powers who is in fact discharging a normal task. Spin-doctoring is no more than the effective management of information, as much and as mundane a part of government as the effective management of VAT receipts. The Conservative Party, although it benefited from modern communication techniques in the Eighties, now exaggerates their power and deprecates their influence. The Tories, still coming to terms with defeat, are inclined to attribute Labour's victory at the last election to "spin", as though they were somehow cheated. If the Tories persist in that error they will find themselves punished again.

Their delusion inclines some Tories to concentrate critical fire on those individuals in the Government responsible for handling information: the Minister without Portfolio, Peter Mandelson, and the Prime Minister's press secretary, Alastair Campbell. Mr Mandelson and Mr Campbell have left the nursery far enough behind to need no nannying but recent attacks on Mr Campbell deserve a proper response.

Mr Campbell has been accused of deception and criticised for high-handedness when all he was doing was respecting a confidence and invoking collective responsibility. That collective responsibility may feel too constricting to some ministers; but if they feel their freedom is limited, their anger should be directed at Tony Blair. The criminal may curse the policeman but his real quarrel is with those who make the rules, not those who enforce them.

The leaking of two memos written by Mr Campbell to Social Security ministers, impressing the virtues of discretion on them in the run-up to the Budget, has been used to

suggest that he is arrogantly overreaching himself in ordering about elected representatives. But, whatever his personal qualities, Mr Campbell's words carry weight only because ministers, and journalists, know he represents his master.

The recipients of those memos, Frank Field and Harriet Harman, would have taken them seriously because they knew that actions taken by their department had angered their leader. Those, inside or outside government, who object to ministerial pronouncements being so tightly regulated from the centre should not shoot the messenger, but recognise that their real dispute is with Downing Street.

The Prime Minister is adopting an increasingly presidential style of government, with all save a few close colleagues kept at arm's length. Mr Blair would regard the thought of being first among equals as a demotion. The centralisation of power in his hands, to be entrenched by the likely creation of a new Prime Minister's Department, may bring efficiency gains of real value, but who will be left to whisper thoughts of mortality in the imperial ear?

Mr Blair's techniques may recall, indeed be intended to build on, Margaret Thatcher's own assertive style of leadership, but the arrogance which allowed her to achieve so much was also her undoing. The Prime Minister would be well advised to treat his Cabinet more indulgently, to exploit its collective wisdom without compromising his authority. By binding more ministers into his thinking his policies would find fiercer, and better, defenders. An embattled press secretary would then find that the burden of being his master's voice was lightened, and politicians of all parties could concentrate on arguments in the open rather than firing at figures in the dark.

## WASHINGTON WAITS

The Middle East peace process needs intensive US involvement

Dennis Ross, the American mediator, has been to the Middle East so often that familiarity seems to have bred contempt on all sides. After his latest five-day tour failed to produce an immediate breakthrough, Mr Ross appeared inclined to discount the entire enterprise. The peace process was, he said, in "dire straits". He further intimated that the United States might abandon its role as mediator. A set of meetings in Washington this week will determine what the Clinton Administration chooses to do next. For all their obvious frustration, the Americans would be unwise to abandon the field of diplomacy. The stakes in the region are far too high and the position is not hopeless.

The present impasse might seem like a storm in a thimble. The central issue is a further Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank. The Americans had indicated that an additional 13.1 per cent of territory should exchange hands, conditional on efforts by the Palestinians to meet Israel's security concerns. Binyamin Netanyahu initially offered 9 per cent and also sought stronger assurances from Yasser Arafat. Outsiders may be tempted to raise their eyes and urge all parties to split the difference. This is, apparently, what Mr Netanyahu suggested although it will not have endeared him to some of his Cabinet colleagues. Nonetheless, it has not proved possible to make progress.

This is in large part because matters are never as simple as they seem in this region. The numbers in dispute might well appear almost pathetically small but their impact is much more significant. Each percentage of the West Bank involves an area approximately the area of Tel Aviv. The security implications (in terms of access to key roads) and resource consequences (particularly for scarce water supplies) are immense. Both

sides are entitled to bargain with some determination. The fact that they will fight their corner does not necessarily mean that an accommodation cannot be achieved. What it certainly implies is that every inch will be difficult. This makes life for the middleman an utter misery. It also illustrates the need for external involvement.

It would be a severe mistake for the United States to suspend its involvement for even a symbolic period. Washington cannot assume that a sharp burst of anger at this time will lead Israel or the Palestinians to frame concessions that would not have been offered otherwise. Neither Mr Netanyahu's need to demonstrate that peace will mean security, nor Mr Arafat's desire to display that peace delivers results, would be altered by American disapproval. Mr Ross rightly argues that compromise cannot be imposed. That should not mean that the best channel of communication between the two camps is withdrawn. The United States remains the only outside actor of consequence.

The Clinton Administration does need to reconsider the means of its mediation. It has relied disproportionately on Mr Ross and his shuttle diplomacy for too long. It has also allowed itself to become bogged down in details of devilish complexity. The peace process will not travel much further on this formula. In the short run, the Palestinians should take what Mr Netanyahu has made available and seek a revised timetable for the territory at present in dispute. The United States should host the so-called "final status" stage of negotiations as soon as possible. All the crucial issues need to be placed on the table and dealt with directly. If President Clinton and Madeleine Albright want such a shift to succeed, then they must be ready to convene these talks themselves.

## DUE COMPENSATION

Britain has its own war debts to repay

After war broke out in 1939, Britain did not face only Germany and Italy on the battlefield. Three Balkan states — Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria — allied themselves with Hitler. The Government considered them to be fellow belligerents, and therefore felt entitled to freeze any assets their citizens held in this country, regardless of who had deposited them or why. In so doing, Britain laid hands on a number of bank accounts opened by Jews and others who sent their money abroad for safe keeping and who subsequently were murdered or victimised by Nazi puppets and occupiers. These people have never recovered their money.

After the war, Britain used the assets to compensate British citizens whose property in the three countries was confiscated by the Communists. The Government agreed to consider the claims of Nazi victims, but cynically insisted that they must apply in person to a British court. Across the Iron Curtain, this was virtually impossible. A token ex-gratia payment was made in 1948, and a decade later £250,000 was paid into a fund to help a small number of victims. Otherwise, Britain considered the matter closed. The Government kept the bulk of the estimated £30 million deposited before 1939.

More than 50 years later, communism has collapsed and so have the excuses. Stung by accusations that Britain had behaved with the same unprincipled self-interest that it so loudly attributed to the Swiss, the Government set up an historical inquiry, similar to the Foreign Office compilation of the docum-

ents on Switzerland's gold-trading with the Nazis. That report is to be published by the Department of Trade and Industry on Friday. The indications are that it will not propose giving claimants their money in full.

The report was completed by last December, when Britain hosted the conference on Nazi gold. The Government claimed, lamely, that Margaret Beckett had not had time to read it, and so delayed publication. Many will suspect that the real reason was that the DTI had no intention of making full restitution and was desperate to avoid the charge of hypocrisy — lambasting the Swiss while behaving in the same way. But as Jewish campaigners have made clear, nothing else is acceptable. No one is asking for charity, or a hardship fund. Those who have already written to the Government, and been fobbed off with the instruction to apply through their ministries at home, are demanding no less than their rights. It is a moral issue. To duck it would be utterly unconscionable.

Some 25,000 accounts were seized. Some belonged to Nazis and their supporters, who have no claim to compensation. Many of the original depositors are now dead and others are very elderly. Tracing them is as difficult as weeding out bogus claims and fraudulent family histories. But no legal casuistry must be allowed to perpetuate this shameful delay. Victims have been doubly deceived: by the Nazis and by the country to which they entrusted their savings. They must be repaid in full.

## Note of discord on Abbey suspension

From His Honour Judge Christopher Compston

Sir, There is a short-term solution to the controversy surrounding the suspension by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster Abbey of Martin Neary, the Organist and Master of the Chorists (reports, March 30 and 31). The long-term solution is more difficult and may require legislation. At heart, this is a power struggle.

In this country, we are presumed innocent until proved guilty. Furthermore, a fair trial demands that the judge is independent.

Eighty or wrongly the Dean will be seen to have made up his mind on Dr Neary. Therefore neither he nor the Chapter should continue to chair the investigation. An independent tribunal is needed — and needed now. Surely Buckingham Palace should now intervene and a senior judge should be found.

The matters in dispute appear to be minor — a trivial court dispute worthy of District Judge Trollope in the Bar-chester County Court.

In the meantime, Dr Neary should be reinstated so that he can concentrate on the Easter services and the Easter concert. I have no doubt that, with his characteristic graciousness and innate professionalism, he would do this.

The trial of Jesus which preceded the Crucifixion and the Resurrection was a mockery. If there is no independent investigation now, despite all the pomp and circumstance, the Easter services in the Abbey will be a mockery too.

Yours sincerely,  
CHRISTOPHER COMPSTON,  
c/o Royal Courts of Justice,  
Strand WC2A 2LL,  
March 31.

From Mr Bret Johnson

Sir, How can the authorities of Westminster Abbey suspend from duty the man who, within a mere two and a half days, put together the most magnificent music for the funeral service of Diana, Princess of Wales, so flawlessly and memorably performed and seen and heard by millions worldwide?

Dr Neary has given unique service to cathedral music by his high standards and tireless work with generations of chorists. Those of us who are parents of choirboys entrusted to his care have been inspired by his work, no less than the boys whose trust he so skilfully earns. But now he and his wife have been publicly humiliated because of a "dispute".

This sort of thing is becoming, alas, all too common in the tortured world of business and other areas of life. Must we now come to expect it from Westminster Abbey, the Christian heart of our national life?

Yours faithfully,  
BRET JOHNSON,  
Brookleigh House,  
Lamarsh, Bures, Suffolk CO8 5ES,  
March 30.

## Diabetic drivers

From the Director General of the British Diabetic Association

Sir, This association, which supports a strong road safety policy, makes a point of informing members of their legal responsibilities and the importance of good control and self-monitoring of their diabetes, especially when driving (reports, March 23 and 26).

However, the Government's blanket ban bars all diabetic drivers with the same brush. It flies in the face of independent medical evidence which shows no significant difference in accident rates between diabetic and non-diabetic drivers.

In fact the Government did not need to impose this blanket ban. The UK regulations were introduced following an EU directive which allows member states flexibility in granting licences for larger vehicles (3.5 to 7.5 tonnes) and minibuses with nine to 16 seats). Some EU states have taken advantage of this to grant licences in certain cases.

We have discussed the issue with the Government, proposing that individuals should be allocated licences on a case-by-case basis.

Surely this must be the best and right way forward in the interests of road safety and individual rights?

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL COOPER,  
Director General,  
The British Diabetic Association,  
10 Queen Anne Street, W1M 0BD,  
March 26.

## Open options

From Earl Russell

Sir, William Rees-Mogg ("Hague is the man to speak for England", March 30) describes Labour as "the presumed coalition partners" of the Liberal Democrats in the Scottish parliament.

Only this weekend Jim Wallace, MP, leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats, issued a warning against such a presumption.

Scottish Liberal Democrats will take their decision on policy issues when the time comes.

Yours sincerely,  
RUSSELL,  
House of Lords,  
March 30.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### State pensions and welfare reform

From Sir Robert McCrindle

Sir, It is no doubt true, as Tim Congdon suggests (article, March 27), that there is an element of risk in making second pensions compulsory. But it is not also true that there is a risk in allowing the arrangement of a second pension to go on being a voluntary act?

If past experience is anything to go by, the responsible members of society will need little persuasion. Perhaps others can be persuaded by more generous tax concessions, but the bulk of the population is likely to go on leaving it to the State to provide a reasonable standard of living in retirement.

Many people contend that compulsory second pensions constitute a new tax. That is probably true. But if on retirement millions are forced to seek assistance from the State, that could only be provided out of taxation.

The difference is that the burden would then fall in part on the prudent pensioner and in part on the then working population.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT MCCRINDLE,  
26 Ashburnham Gardens,  
Upminster, Essex RM14 1XA,  
rmccrindle@aol.com  
March 22.

From Mr Joe Buchdahl

Sir, It is lucky for Labour's proposed welfare reform that Gordon Brown chose to raise rather than lower the inheritance tax exemption threshold in the Budget. If people are to be encouraged to save for themselves and their children, and not rely on the State to support them in old age, such tax breaks should indeed be increased, not cut.

The changes in the taxation of

private pension schemes in Labour's first Budget last year provide little comfort for those now considering a more independent means of saving for retirement.

Yours faithfully,  
JOE BUCHDAHL,  
10 Darlington Road,  
Withington, Manchester M20 1JB,  
j.buchdahl@mmu.ac.uk  
March 27.

From Mr Jack Canny

Sir, I think it only right that, as the state retirement pension is taxable, any figure quoted as being the annual cost to the Exchequer should be net of tax. Your report today on the Government's Green Paper on welfare put this figure at £31.8 billion, but does not say whether this is before or after tax, an important omission in the light of the current debate on the subject of the means-testing of benefits.

What is taxation if it is not a form of means-testing?

Yours faithfully,  
JACK CANNY,  
9 Rectory Close,  
Godalming, Surrey GU7 1TT,  
March 27.

From Mr John Biggs

Sir, Karl Marx wrote in 1875: "From each according to his abilities, to each according to his needs," which sounds like a very good summary of the proposals to make work replace welfare benefits. Do we now have a truly communist government?

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN BIGGS,  
Pippins, Stonesfield Lane,  
Charlbury, Oxfordshire OX7 3ER,  
jbiggs@oway.u-net.com  
March 27.

### Belgium and refugees

From the Ambassador of Belgium

Sir, With regard to the recent problem of illegal immigrants on the Eurostar to Britain (report, March 26), it was factually and morally wrong to tell your readers that "Belgium has let down both refugees and EU partners" (in the subheading of your leading article, March 27).

When the Belgian Minister of the Interior, Johan Vande Lanotte, called the Home Secretary last Thursday (and not the other way round, as you claim) it was certainly not to perform some "back-passing" or to clear his "own patch" but to stop the emerging "influx".

It is, indeed, "hysterical nonsense", as Immigration Minister Mike O'Brien described it (on Radio 4 in the 6 o'clock news, March 25), to suggest as you do that Belgium is allowing Britain to be flooded with illegal immigrants. There is neither "corruption" nor "extraordinary laxity" involved.

But there is, as you rightly put it, a legal loophole that exempts Eurostar

from the responsibility to ensure that its passengers are legally entitled to enter Britain. Belgian police authorities are convinced that criminal networks are exploiting this loophole (by providing tickets) and an investigation is taking place.

Most of the illegal immigrants involved — who, when asked, showed no interest in seeking asylum in Belgium — are in fact doing what they have been ordered to do: leave Belgium and the Schengen area within seven days or face forced repatriation.

Minister Vande Lanotte has now decided, and Mr Straw has been informed, that for as long as the loophole has not been plugged, Belgium will stop these hapless people from boarding the Eurostar, unless they can show valid travel documents for Britain. Immigration officials of both countries are already co-operating on this matter.

Yours sincerely,  
LODE WILLEMS,  
Embassy of Belgium,  
103 Eaton Square,  
London SW1W 9AB,  
March 30.

### In praise of West Pier

From the Chairman of the National Piers Society

Sir, I must take issue with Matthew Parris in his belief that the rescue of Brighton West Pier "is a bad thing" ("Live and let crumble", March 27).

Far from being "a perfectly uninteresting example of 19th-century frilly ironwork on stilts" the pier has Grade I listed status. It isn't some kind of Victorian relic; rather, it has constantly developed, with the concert hall (built 1916) and southern-end pavilion (1893) dating from well after the original 1866 construction date. It will now be adapted for modern-day needs.

Had the money not been allocated, it would have been spent on something else in the heritage field. In any case, restoration creates much-needed work in the construction industry, and full-time positions once the structure is revived.

I hope Mr Parris can join us at the celebrations.

Yours faithfully,  
TIM MICKLEBURGH,  
Chairman,  
National Piers Society,  
33 Littlefield Lane,  
Grimsby DN31 2AZ,  
March 30.

### New-style FO

From Mrs Lois Chevis

Sir, You quote a "Whitehall source" (report, March 23; see also letters, March 29), on the subject of advertising for ambassadors, as saying that the present Foreign Office career structure "creates a closeted culture in which mandarins speak a rarefied language".

The Queen's English perhaps?

Yours,  
LOIS CHEVIS,  
The Platt, 9 College Hill Terrace,  
Haslemere, Surrey GU27 2JJ,  
March 28.

Business letters, page 27

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.  
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

### Flora and fauna of roadside verges

From Jill Duchess of Hamilton

Sir, The lament about gaudy double cultivars, echoed in today's letter on daffodils from Mr David Pearman, President of the Royal Botanical Society of the British Isles, was fore-shadowed by William Morris in a lecture over a century ago:

Be very shy of double flowers; choose the old columbine where the clustering doves are unmistakable and distinct, not the double one where they run into mere tatters. Choose (if you can get it) the old chinaraster with the yellow centre... Don't be swindled out of that wonder of beauty, a single snowdrop; there is no gain and plenty of loss in the double one.

Experiments conducted at the Cambridge Botanic Gardens for Flora-for-Fauna, a charity to encourage gardeners to grow native plants, show that single flowers are a valuable source of nectar for insects, such as bees and butterflies, whereas many modern cultivars provide meagre fare. Some of the latter have little or no nectar; others produce nectar but insects cannot reach it — they are obstructed by double petals or "improvements" in the bloom.

Species daffodils are pollinated by early-flying, short-tongued bumble bees. These push past the central column of anthers surrounding the single-style to reach nectar at the base. Early-flying flies and other bees also visit, but the large bumble bee can barely fit inside the flower. It is urgent that experiments are carried out to see which cultivars of daffodils — if any — have nectar and, if they have, whether the insects can gain access.

Local flora have co-evolved with the local fauna: no holly — no holly blue butterfly; no buckthorn — no brimstone butterfly; no heather — no insects, no grouse; no insects, no bats, no swallows. Would daffodil cultivars be grown so widely if people knew that in doing so they were depriving insects and birds?

Yours faithfully,  
JILL HAMILTON  
(Co-ordinator, Flora-for-Fauna),  
c/o The Linnean Society,  
Burlington House,  
Piccadilly, W1V 0LQ,  
March 28.

From Mrs Dallas M. Green

Sir, I was dismayed to read of Mr Pearman's abhorrence for the swaths of daffodils now adorning more and more roadside verges in our land.

I understand the botanical reason for his disapproval of many of these cultivars; nevertheless I sincerely hope that the majority of people will, as I do, rejoice at this joyous sight and feel their spirits lifted by the colour and movement of the flowers which so beautifully brighten our winter-grimed verges.

Long may they flourish!  
Yours faithfully,  
DALLAS M. GREEN,  
34 The Deringes,  
Harpden,  
Hertfordshire AL5 2PE,  
March 28.

From Mr William Waterson

Sir, I love all the hundreds of varieties of daffodil, cultivars as well as natives, and I look forward to the day when they will outnumber the drinks tins and potato-crisp packets at the roadside.

Every year I echo Herrick's lines, written in 1648:  
Fair daffodils, we weep to see  
You haste away so soon...

Yours faithfully,  
WILLIAM R. WATERTON,  
Waterfall Cottage,  
8 Colinton Gardens,  
Newtownabbey,  
Co Antrim BT36 7JH,  
March 28.

### In all innocence

From Mr Quentin Langley

Sir, Surely the jailing of Deirdre Rachid (report, March 31) is excellent news for new Labour.

It enables the Home Secretary to claim that the Government is tough on crime, without actually making a decision. And the jailing of a fictional character will cost the Chancellor nothing.

Yours sincerely,  
QUENTIN LANGLEY,  
55 Hillview Court,  
Woking, Surrey GU22 7QW,  
March 31.

From Miss Beryl M. Goldsmith

Sir, A breathless national awaits the inevitable prime ministerial announcement designating Deirdre Rachid "the People's Prisoner".

Come on Tony.  
Yours faithfully,  
BERYL M. GOLDSMITH,  
34 Thomas More House,  
Barbican, EC2Y 8BT,  
March 31.

From Mr J. R. Farrow

Sir, Your account of the Weatherfield One case refers to the switchboard at Granada being flooded with calls. In the old days, metaphorically, very busy switchboards became jammed.

Perhaps it's all to do with new technology, or even El Niño?  
Yours sincerely,  
JOHN FARROW,  
14 Stow Park Circle,  
Newport, Gwent NP9 4HF,  
March 31.

### Poets' corner

From Mr W. S. Becket

Sir, When mentioning Keats and Bob Dylan in the same breath (leading article, "Blowin' in the wind", March 28) should you not start by drawing a distinction between art and entertainment?

Yours faithfully,  
W. S. BECKET,  
37 Rhyl Fodog,  
Deiniolen, Gwynedd LL55 3HL,  
March 28.







سكنا من الأصل

OBITUARIES

FRED POOLEY



Fred Pooley, CBE, architect and town planner, died on March 11 aged 81. He was born in London on April 18, 1916.

A left-wing planner deeply pre-occupied with problems of transportation, and with a faith in public transport, Fred Pooley had a vision that was, in the 1960s, far ahead of its time. This was to build a city free of cars. He christened it Monorail City, a conception in which no one would be more than seven minutes' walk from a station. The site for this revolutionary idea was to be in north Buckinghamshire (afterwards Milton Keynes). It was to be his answer to the already fast-growing menace of urban sprawl.

Frederick Bernard Pooley was born in West Ham, the son of a local builder. He was educated at West Ham Grammar School, from where he went on to study architecture as a part-time evening student at the Northern Polytechnic, working in the borough engineer's department by day. After qualifying, he joined West Ham's architect's department and took several other courses, among them town planning and structural engineering.

During the war he served in the Royal Engineers, returning after demobilisation to West Ham Borough Council as deputy borough architect and planning officer. His energies were much needed in an area of London which had been so devastated by bombing.

Six years of this experience eminently qualified him for working on the reconstruction of Coventry where the wartime destruction was even more concentrated. In 1951 he was appointed deputy architect and planning officer under Donald Gibson. Gibson was a powerful advocate of industrialised building systems which had sprung to prominence at the end of the war when such traditional materials as timber



Fred Pooley's Burnham Branch Library in Buckinghamshire, opened in 1974

and bricks were scarce. Originally pioneered by the firm of Hills for the design of Hertfordshire infant and primary schools, the systems enjoyed great success on this small scale.

Unfortunately, however, they became applied in situations ranging from large educational buildings to hospitals and housing. For Gibson, a favourite among them was CLASP, an ingenious industrialised school building system he was developing. Pooley was practically alone among public authority architects in opposing this form of prefabrication. He disliked CLASP for its inflexibility. He found that it was apt to conflict with the genius loci of a place. He also saw its practical difficulties and refused to adopt CLASP (which Gibson urged him to do) when he was made Chief Architect and Planning Officer of Buckinghamshire County Council in 1953.

When the Buckinghamshire job came along he thought "Right, I'll do my way now". He was the right man to cope with the postwar population increase and the correspondingly large educational requirement.

Pooley's method of building was to go for traditional brickwork and pitched roofs. For the former he used second-hand stock bricks from London's bombed sites which he said

had the advantage of "instant maturity". Common sense was his guide as a designer. His schools, libraries and residential schemes may not have been examples of modern architecture as perceived at that time, but they suited the village scale of their sites. They also lasted and did not leak.

Then came his plan to relieve the pressure of development on the southern end of the county, presenting the opportunity to build his Monorail City for 200,000 to the north - Milton Keynes. Pooley had the backing and funding from central and local government, and from the private sector, for a scheme which set out to protect the Green Belt from development. He planned the city for an area round Aylesbury Vale, between Stony Stratford in the north and Blechley in the south. It was to be in the form of a figure-of-eight, with twenty or so villages tracing the general shape like beads, each one having a monorail station. At the heart of this was to be the city centre. Thus, cars would be obviated for all intra-city travel.

It was a brilliant solution, and the completed work was announced to the press in 1966, the concept of "monorail" immediately making the headlines. At that point the Labour Government intervened, referring the venture to the New Towns Commission. This took it

out of Pooley's hands, formed the Development Corporation and passed the planning to another architect. From then on it became a car-orientated city, a total negation of Pooley's vision.

One of Pooley's last important works for the county was the establishment of Buckingham as a university town next door to Milton Keynes. He also created the Buckingham Development Company to regulate development around the immediate area. In partnership with local councils and developers, it provided a method of controlling building as well as making a profit for the participants. He also led the campaign to stop the location of the third London airport in the beautiful countryside near Wing, between Aylesbury and Milton Keynes.

His work for the county offices at Aylesbury - nicknamed Fred's Fort - was, however, probably his least liked work; but it was a landmark for the old town. In 1973 Pooley was President of the Royal Institute of British Architects and was made a research fellow of Merton College, Oxford. In 1974 he was appointed Controller of Planning and Transportation at the Greater London Council, four years later going on to become its Chief Architect. Pooley was appointed CBE in 1968. His wife predeceased him, and he is survived by his three daughters.

MARC SAUTET

Marc Sautet, French philosopher, died from cancer on March 3 aged 51. He was born in Normandy on February 25, 1947.



MARC SAUTET was the man who gave a new and more democratic lease of life to a venerable French tradition: philosophising in cafés. Since 1992, when he first started holding informal Sunday discussions in the Bastille area of Paris, the "cafés-philos" have developed into a movement with some 60 similar centres of weekly discussion all over France. Sessions have also taken place in London, Tokyo and New York.

A lecturer at the Institut des Etudes Politiques in Paris, Sautet was, like many others of his generation, a former Trotskyist. He was also a Nietzsche specialist who had edited a number of books and written an accessible introduction to the German philosopher's work.

Sautet did not belong to the group of star French philosophers who produce bestsellers and make regular appearances on TV discussions. But the success of his café initiative did reflect the same need for basic moral and philosophical bearings as the recent success of a number of philosophical books offering what purists disparagingly call "ready-to-think" or "off-the-peg" concepts.

Sautet began branching out from academic life when he opened his own "cabinet de philosophie" in the Marais, offering consultations and charging rates comparable to those a psychoanalyst might charge: Fr 300 for an hour. "I help my customers to structure their thoughts. I am there to feed their doubts by asking

the right questions, not to give answers," he claimed. Designed essentially for businessmen, the consultancy service was not a roaring success, but Sautet never abandoned it. Indeed, it was the attempt to invigorate it that led to the café sessions.

He held his first informal meeting at the Café des Phares on December 13, 1992. These 11am Sunday sessions soon became famous, with attendances of around 200. Sautet would set the theme for discussion - "the road to hell is paved with good intentions," say - and then pass around the cordless microphone. Although a highly charismatic and persuasive figure, he always insisted that his aim was "to keep dialogue going, not to direct it". He called the movement he instigated "cafés for Socrates",

which was also the title of a book he wrote on the subject in 1993. This was philosophy for the agora, a return to the rudiments of reasoning, rather than high-flown discourse. Predictably, the venture was not without controversy. Sautet was decried by the "specialists" and accused of using the Café des Phares as a shop window for his more profitable private sessions. In 1996 there were also worried reports that he had taken up an ambiguous position regarding the Holocaust. Such, perhaps, were the risks of open, public debate.

Before his death, Sautet was working on a series of books in which he conducted dialogues with classical philosophers on a given theme. After *Les Femmes*, he was about to publish a second volume simply entitled *Dieu*.

ROLAND BOOTH

Roland Gordon Booth, nutritionist, died on March 2 aged 88. He was born June 17, 1909.



ROLAND BOOTH was one of the pioneering nutritionists who helped to plan the British diet during the food shortages of the Second World War. But he was a scientist expert in many of the arts, especially theatre and opera, and his work in nutrition led naturally to a connoisseur's knowledge of food and wine.

Known as "Roland" to his family and close friends, and "Gordon" to a very wide circle of academic and business colleagues, he was brought up in Highworth, near Swindon, the son of a Congregational minister from Yorkshire and a Scottish mother.

He read agriculture at Reading University, which led to a doctorate at the adjacent National Institute for Research in Dairying. There he worked in the relatively new field of biochemistry, following a number of important nutritional discoveries of vitamins and other key food nutrients.

While Booth was at university, some of his other interests flourished, including jazz, playing the saxophone and banjo, choral singing, and alpine mountaineering.

On completing his doctorate, he began work with a Birmingham dairy company, formulating vitamin enriched baby foods, the start of a long career in food processing. He also spent time in Hull setting up a laboratory to measure the amount of Vitamin D in cod liver oil (then a very arduous technique involving rat tests), and in St Albans, to which he was summoned at the outbreak of war to Cereals Research. There he undertook the programme to fortify British wheat flour so as to help ensure that Britain remained healthy during the privations of war.

His other memorable work during the war included analysing 3,300-year-old barley

from Tutankhamun's tomb. He was fascinated to find that the nutrients were identical to those he was working on in the 1940s.

While in Hull, through his interest in the theatre and opera, he met and married his wife, Nancy. They celebrated their diamond wedding in 1977. In St Albans they became pillars of the amateur opera society, of which Booth became life president.

After the war Booth was recruited by the Bovril company, which then included Marmite and Virol. His work as chief chemist harnessed his enthusiasms for nutrition and food technology, and took him to some of the outposts of the beef extract industry in Brazil and Spain.

In the 1950s he was able to add animal nutrition to his responsibilities. He joined the Mars company, making canned petfoods in Melton Mowbray, and soon became its technical director. He saw the company grow into the dominant domestic petfood company in Britain.

Booth revelled in the challenge of applying biochemistry and technology to

new food products. On retiring early from Pedigree Petfoods in 1962 he established a food technology consultancy. His wide range of assignments included work with natural colours from grape juice in New York State, to the design of a frozen french fries factory in Bosnia. (The potatoes were disease-free, but sadly the factory was not shell-proof). He also worked regularly in Italy, and helped to automate confectionery production in Spain.

Roland Booth, who affected flair and originality in his dress, could discourse with authority and style on music and musical instruments, nutrition, food technology, medicine and mountaineering. He gave an annual lecture on wine in St Albans. Into his eighties he was writing and editing books, ranging from food technology reference works to a handbook for the amateur operatic world. In 1966 he wrote his autobiography, *All Change*, which contains fascinating detail about rural life in Wiltshire in the early 20th century.

He is survived by his wife and their two daughters.

JOHN RICHARDSON

John Richardson, surgeon, died on March 1 aged 82. He was born on February 24, 1916.

JOHN RICHARDSON (inexplicably known as "Sam" in medical circles) was a surgeon whose deftness, delicacy and sureness of touch became legendary. He had such extraordinary skill, particularly in the fields of endocrine and abdominal surgery, that even his most eminent colleagues were known to drop into his theatre to watch him operate.

The son of a Loughborough GP, John Eric Richardson was

educated at Clifton, where he played rugby in the 1st XV. He went to the London Hospital in 1934 and there had a brilliant career, playing rugby for the hospital and winning the Andrew Clark Prize for medicine. After junior posts at the London, Poplar and Liverpool Children's Hospitals, he became one of the youngest ever Fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons.

He joined the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, and within three weeks was posted to the battleship *Prince of Wales*, just after she had hosted the signing of the Atlantic Charter by

Churchill and Roosevelt. He was fortunate to survive his early war experiences. The *Prince of Wales's* next mission was to be her last. In October 1941, with the *Repulse*, she was dispatched to Singapore before the outbreak of war with Japan, in order, as Churchill optimistically put it, "to exercise that kind of vague menace which capital ships of the highest quality... can impose upon all hostile naval calculations".

On December 10, 1941, both were sunk by Japanese aircraft with the loss of nearly a thousand officers and men.

Richardson went on deck for the emergency treatment of the wounded, and when the order came to abandon her, he was picked up by a destroyer and taken to Singapore.

He was seconded at once to an army unit for two months during the retreat in Malaya; he was fortunate to be evacuated three days before Singapore surrendered. He had yet another narrow escape a few months later when the ship he was on was torpedoed by a German submarine and sank with the loss of a third of her complement. Richardson was

rescued after 18 hours in an open boat, by an American merchant ship, which, although carrying a cargo of explosives, stopped for survivors, an act referred to in the idiom of the time as "very sporting". Although he had vivid memories of these events, he hardly ever spoke about them. Later he was appointed Consultant Surgeon to the Royal Navy.

Winning a Rockefeller travelling fellowship in 1947, Richardson spent a year at the Massachusetts General Hospital before returning to the London Hospital as senior lecturer and consultant in the newly formed surgical unit.

For his juniors this was a golden time; he sparked with ideas and brought an entirely new approach to the then ill-understood mystery of electrolyte imbalance, which could be so lethal after major surgery. He could not escape from his growing reputation as a surgical craftsman, and was increasingly in demand at the hospitals to which he was quickly appointed, the Prince of Wales, Tottenham, the Royal Masonic and the King Edward VII Hospital for Officers. But his loyalty to the London Hospital never wavered.

To a generation of younger surgeons he was a model, and his surgical methods were widely imitated.

He married Elizabeth Webster in 1943, when she was serving as a Wren. She died in 1991, and in 1994 he married Bettine Long, who survives him, together with a son and daughter of his first marriage.

PERSONAL COLUMN

FOR SALE, FLIGHTS DIRECTORY, FLIGHTWISE, FLIGHT SEEKERS, FLIGHTSEATS, AVION, JETWORLD, AIRLINK WORLDWIDE, JETLINE, FARESAVERS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, COURT & SOCIAL, LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES.

NEW ZEPPELIN SETS OFF SIGHTED FROM ENGLAND ON THIS DAY April 1, 1936 HEARTY SEND-OFF AT DAWN FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

ANNOUNCEMENTS, COURT & SOCIAL, LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES.

81 1982 81 9313 AM... Med Let April... DON PHARM... KETS!



NEWS

Dobson rules out NHS charges

Frank Dobson has ruled out the introduction of health charges for the rest of this Parliament after securing an extra £3 billion for the National Health Service.

Naval officer tells of sex threats

A female naval officer told how a high-ranking Army officer bombarded her with threatening and sexually-explicit letters and telephone calls after the break-up of their two-and-a-half-year affair.

Murdoch denial

Tony Blair's spokesman rejected Tory accusations that he had lied on behalf of the Prime Minister over claims that he had acted to help Rupert Murdoch's business interests.

Robot dustman

Hazardous nuclear waste which was dumped down a shaft on the north Scottish coast decades ago is to be retrieved using a robot.

Brown stands firm

Gordon Brown dismissed calls for the Treasury to take immediate action to curb the surging pound, insisting that exporters must join the Government in taking a long view.

Veteran survivor

Oswald Jones, 102, was laid to rest with full military honours. In 1917 he was presumed dead after being shot in the trenches but came home a year later, in time for his memorial service.

Pupils save head

Children formed a human shield to protect their headmaster after he was punched to the ground and left in agony by a playground intruder at a Stoke-on-Trent comprehensive school.

Pyrrhic victory

Robert Kocharyan, Armenia's nationalist Prime Minister, won a landslide victory in presidential elections, threatening to plunge the volatile Caucasus region into new uncertainty.

Air crash escape

The veteran pilot of an aircraft carrying the Leeds United football team managed to crash-land his burning aircraft seconds after it left the runway.

Death by rape

The Bangladesh Cabinet approved the death penalty for rape, the toughest response of any South Asian country to crimes against women.

Smoking conflict

Tobacco companies promote low-tar cigarettes as a "healthy option" despite knowing they are no safer than conventional brands, campaigners said.

Out of the bush

Bill Clinton emerged from his safari in Botswana offering little tangible help to environmentalists despite his admiration for African nature.

Medication hazard

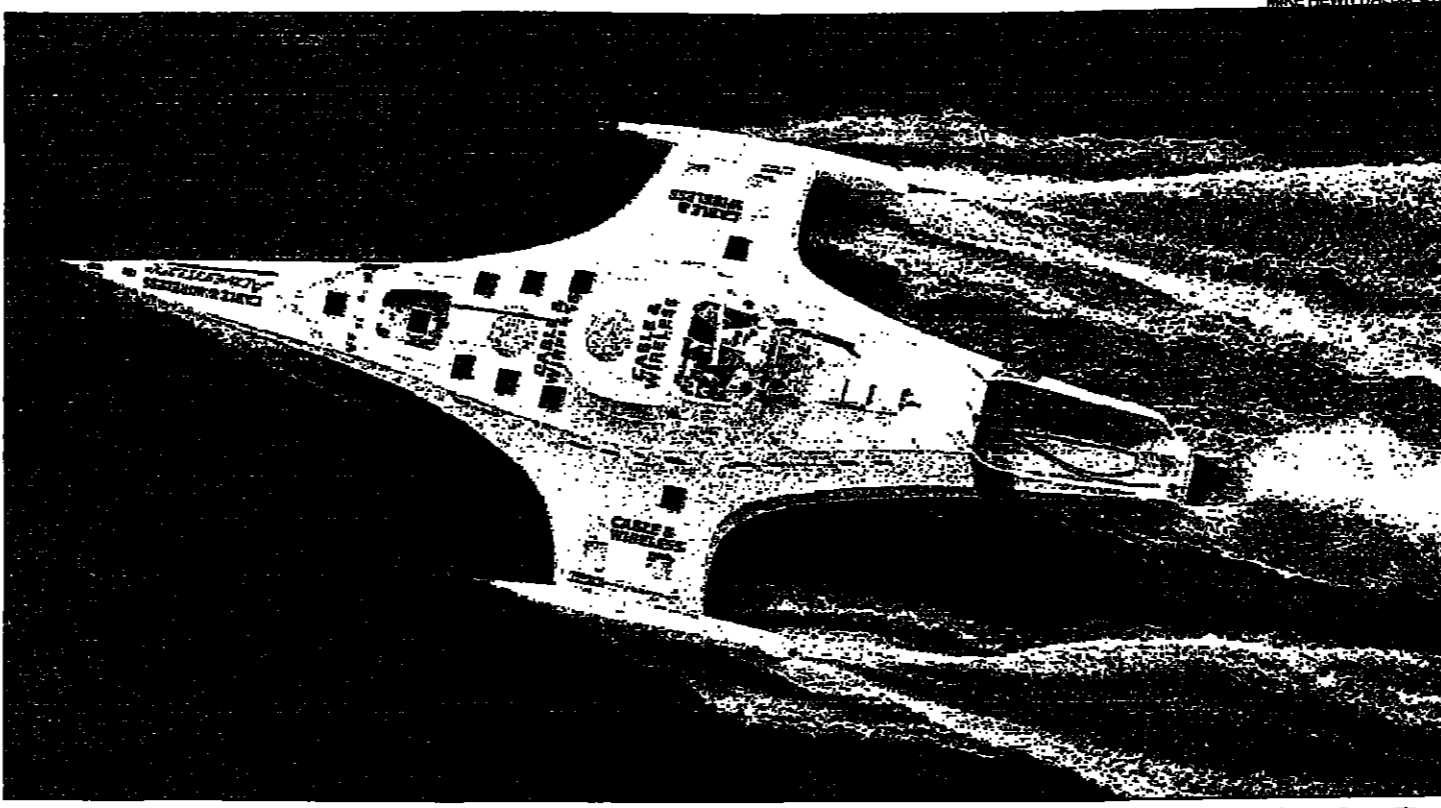
Some doctors may kill mental patients by overprescribing drugs, needed to calm them down, the President of the Royal College of Psychiatrists said.

Open Italy

Italy joined the Schengen agreement on a border-free Europe, brushing aside accusations that it is unable to hold back a "human tide" of refugees.

Hushaby baby in the parental bed

Anthropologists at Durham University have found that new-born babies who are tucked up under the duvet with their parents are unlikely to be crushed, smothered or overcome by heat.



The British powerboat Cable and Wireless Adventurer during her first measured mile trial in the Solent yesterday. She will start an attempt on the world circumnavigation record for powered vessels later this month.

BUSINESS

Ladbroke: The takeover of the Coral bookmakers chain by Ladbroke is to be decided by the monopolies commission.

SPORT

Cricket: The England one-day international side is playing so well that if the World Cup were staged this May, rather than next, they would probably win it.

ARTS

Novel approach: It has taken the forthright and articulate Australian director Gillian Armstrong eight years to bring Peter Carey's bestselling novel Oscar and Lucinda to the big screen.

FEATURES

Young love: As Macaulay Culkin, the former child star of the Home Alone movies, announces he is to marry a girl who, like him, is 17, Jason Cowley and Bill Frost ponder teenage marriage.

COMPUTERS

Computecenter: Philip Hulme and Peter Ogden, the founders of the computer services company who met at Harvard Business School in the 1970s, will be worth up to £235 million each when they float the company in May.

FOOTBALL

The pound: Sterling rose above DM3.10 after Gordon Brown said he saw no justification for any action to force it lower.

MUSIC

Star singer: With Baywatch looks and bebop inclinations, the Canadian singer-pianist Diana Krall is the fastest rising star in jazz.

TELEVISION

Phone alone: Time was when it was cool to have a mobile phone. Not any more. Nick Foulkes charts changes in the world of social on-upmanship.

MARKETS

The FTSE 100 index rose 20.3 points to close at 5932.2. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 108.7 to 108.8 after a fall from \$1.6776 to \$1.6745 but a rise from DM3.0945 to DM3.0963.

BOXING

The heart of drama: Brian Friel's new play at the Hampstead Theatre, Give Me Your Answer, Dad, addresses the worries, confusions and follies of the writer.

THE HEART OF DRAMA

The heart of drama: Brian Friel's new play at the Hampstead Theatre, Give Me Your Answer, Dad, addresses the worries, confusions and follies of the writer.



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

FILMS: Geoff Brown reviews Kundun, Scorsese's version of the Dalai Lama story.

BOOKS: Hardy Amies finds a life of Dior that suits him; Peter Ackroyd samples a Lawrence Durrell life.

UPPER HAND

Upturn ahead? Caught up in Asia's economic woes, South Korea is working hard.

BUILDING AN IMAGE

Building an image: Do estate agents deserve their low status and wretched image? Not always, says a new report.

THE UNITED STATES AND IRAN

The United States and Iran are engaged in the delicate business of trying to repair a broken relationship. Reconciliation will not be easy, and may prove impossible if Iran does not end its support of terrorism and its effort to develop nuclear weapons.

FRED POOLEY, ARCHITECT

Fred Pooley, architect; Roland Booth, nutritionist; Marc Saulet, philosopher; John Richardson, surgeon.

ABBEY ORGANIST

Abbey Organist: pensions and welfare reform; roadside daffodils; Belgium and refugees.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,754

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-28 indicating starting positions for clues.

- ACROSS: 1 Mission statement for today? (5,6). 2 Vehicle used in police raid? Not last time (3). 3 One's struck by the Hammers' style of playing? (9). 4 Wake during the night (5). 5 Gatecrash, being impolite after suggestion's ignored at first (7). 6 Jazz trumpeter I left inside in dated state (7). 7 Small bone some main customers picked (5). 8 After adjustments, net pay now almost worthless (3,1,5). 9 A new food cut off part of Tayside (5). 10 Take food to fry in these containers? (7). 11 They can't face their opponents pulling ahead (7). 12 Briefly answer long letter (5). 13 Man stocking fifth-rate standard? (5-4). 14 One in five usually going on foot (3). 15 Flag's replacement may be what it's cracked up to be (5,6). 16 Times of upheaval for endangered animal (3). 17 Pair up to contain the French winger? Just about (5). 18 State capital's used for building in London (2,5). 19 Horsed around with Scot from old colony (9). 20 It's straightforward, when split up (5). 21 Wills about here - namely, kept in by germ, laid up (7). 22 Charming nature, to accept most of the blame (9). 23 If not today, sometime in August? (5,6). 24 Amazingly, I'll figure out French oxymoron (5,6). 25 One's rolled up for food, or mostly drink, after the game (9). 26 Put out only hype about good history of evolution (9). 27 Hurry up, discarding one character in picture about costly triumph (7). 28 Roman general with a firm hold on the borders of Parthia (7). 29 Partly ring about raising capital (5). 30 City on East coast, one mile up a motorway (5). 31 Risk plunge finally, over centre of Niagara, in a barrel (3).

Solution to Puzzle No 20753. Includes a grid with words like SCRAPES, BRASSHAT, IRE, A, Q, W, H, DIGITALLY, ATSEA, E, E, L, A, R, A, M, DENARIUS, LAMINAE, I, C, S, N, E, N, S, SAYS, ABNORMAL, H, U, D, G, I, F, PASTRAMI, GARBO, S, M, V, N, H, E, R, CROSBUS, ENTRANT, A, R, T, W, E, A, D, K, MOOSE, GARSWOMEN, P, S, E, R, S, A, I, O, I, RONDUIKE, SYNTAX.

AA INFORMATION

Latest Road and Weather conditions. AA Weather - All regions 0336 444 910. UK Roads - All regions 0336 401 410. Inside M25 0336 401 746. M25 and Link Roads 0336 401 747. National Motorways 0336 401 748. Continental Europe 0336 401 910. Channel crossing 0336 401 388. Motorist to Motorist 0336 407 505. Weather by Fax 0336 416 399.

World City Weather

Table with 3 columns: City, Temp, Wind. Cities include London, Paris, Rome, etc.

Car reports by fax

Did from your fax handset, you may have to sort to post receive mode. Automobile Association's Development Ltd. 0336 416 399.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Table showing Sun rise, Sun set, Moon sets, Moon rises for various locations like London, Edinburgh, Manchester, etc.

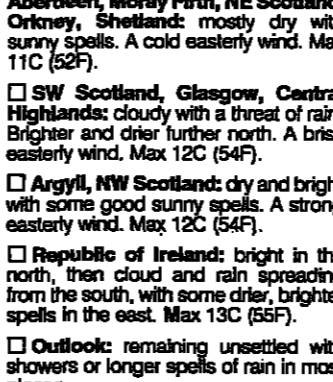
FORECAST

General: Wales and most of England will be cloudy with rain and drizzle in most places. Northern England, southwest Scotland and Northern Ireland will start mostly dry but it will cloud over with a growing risk of rain.

ABROAD

Table with 3 columns: Location, Sun, Rain, Wind. Locations include Aberdeen, London, Paris, etc.

NOON TODAY



CHANGES TO CHART

Changes to chart below from noon: low E will combine with low D and the whole system will deepen further while drifting slowly east. High N will drift east with this change.

WINDS

Table with 3 columns: Location, Wind direction, Wind speed.

TEMPERATURES

Table with 3 columns: Location, Today, Tomorrow, Next Day.

WINDS & LOWERS

Table with 3 columns: Location, Wind direction, Wind speed.

YESTERDAY'S HIGHEST DAY TEMPS

Yesterday's highest day temps: Great Malvern, Hereford & Worcester, 17C (63F); lowest day max: Sellafield, 10.9C.

Advertisement for travel insurance: 'However many times you hop across to Europe you're covered with our travel insurance. From £49.95 a year. Available to non-Car members. To enrol call quoting reference TWB08. 0800 700 737. No need to compromise.'



INSIDE SECTION 2 TODAY



WATERSHED Japan seeks to wipe away financial tears PAGE 27



ARTS Dream comes true for film director Gillian Armstrong PAGES 33-35



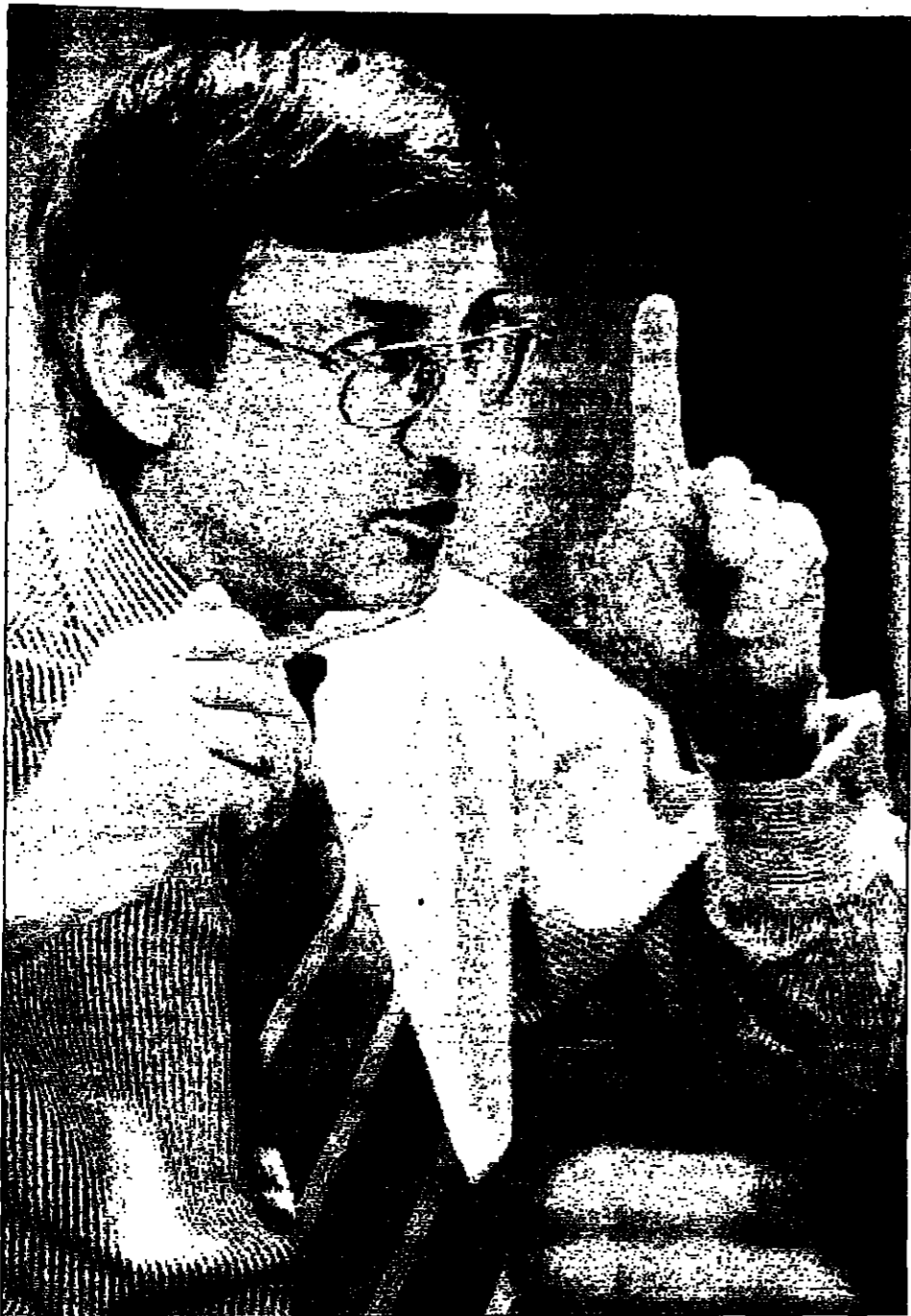
SPORT Catt laps up chance to show off skills on wing PAGES 39-44

TELEVISION AND RADIO PAGES 43, 43

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY APRIL 1 1998

Glaxo Wellcome employees hold £1bn in share options



Sir Richard Sykes was unable to agree with his opposite number at SmithKline Beecham

GLAXO WELLCOME, the pharmaceutical group, has put in place share option schemes for its employees worth nearly £1 billion. These plans would have paid out about £1.4 billion had the merger with SmithKline Beecham proceeded. About 20,000 Glaxo Wellcome executives are beneficiaries of group schemes and were in line to make an overnight profit of £70,000 each from the deal. Many employees have already taken advantage of the high price of the group's shares, exercising options last year that reaped a paper profit of £270 million. The largest windfalls from the options plan would have gone to senior directors — with James Nield, the research and development director, being the largest potential beneficiary, at about £2.66 million. The directors are also entitled to shares under the long-term incentive plan, which potentially could have been worth £17 million. The option schemes give employees rights to buy Glaxo Wellcome shares at prices ranging from 25p each to £12.75 each at various points stretching over the next nine years. Last night Glaxo Wellcome shares stood at £16.07, having reached a high of £19.83 during merger talks with SB. The massive cost of the various schemes, which give employees options over 114 million shares — is understood to have been a material factor in the negotiations with SB. The failure of the deal has been blamed on the inability of the senior executives — Sir Richard Sykes, chairman of Glaxo Wellcome, and Jan Leschly, chief executive of SB

By JASON NISSÉ — to agree on the allocation of the top jobs. However, it is understood that advisers working for Glaxo Wellcome gave warning that a merger could have crystallised all the share options in the schemes, bringing a bonanza for Glaxo Wellcome executives worth £1.4 billion. When Glaxo took over Wellcome three years ago, the share option schemes were triggered but many staff chose to roll over their entitlement into the larger company, and are now in line for an even bigger payout. Although the triggering of the share options would not have been a cash cost for Glaxo Wellcome, it would have diluted the share of the new group available to Glaxo Wellcome shareholders. Leading investors are angry about the failure of the deal to go through and Glaxo Wellcome has been meeting institutional shareholders to try and diffuse a possible row at the annual shareholders' meeting next month. Institutions have questioned whether the non-executive directors — led by Sir Roger Hurn, the deputy chairman — could have done more to force through a £100 billion merger that most in the City consider to be in the interests of shareholders. Shareholder dissatisfaction has been targeted at SB, after revelations about the £66 million pay and options package accumulated by Mr Leschly. The SB chief executive would have been extremely expensive to dismiss in the event of a merger with Glaxo Wellcome. His contract allows for a pay-off equal to three years' salary if he left after a change of control. On the basis of his package in 1997, this would have entitled Mr Leschly, a former Davis Cup tennis star, to a pay-off in the region of £7 million.

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Commentary, page 25



Institutions have questioned the role of Sir Roger Hurn

Oil price drops in face of output pact

By CARL MORTSHED

OIL markets yesterday poured scorn on Opec's surprise agreement to cut output by pushing down prices around the world. The oil cartel's glee at securing agreement to production cuts from non-Opec producers such as Mexico and Norway, turned to gloom as Brent blend for May delivery fell 50 cents to \$14.27. Norway's decision on Monday to cut production by 100,000 barrels per day (bpd) brought the pact to 1.5 million barrels. Energetic diplomacy by Mexico helped to bring the second biggest oil exporter into an agreement that will reduce world output by 2 per cent. Norway's decision caused surprise in Western oil markets, which saw little reason for the wealthy country to give up market share. Norway exports 3.3 million bpd but, unlike Venezuela and Iran, is not under financial pressure. Norway's move could be a diplomatic ploy, securing favours from Opec members with vast oil reserves. Peter Bogins of Cambridge Energy Research Associates pointed out that Norway has an important oil service industry with companies such as Statoil and Kvaerner competing for contracts in the developing world. Even assuming that Opec sticks to its guns, oil traders see a glut emerging in the summer after weak winter consumption and a possible doubling of Iraqi output. The Centre for Global Energy Studies forecasts that demand will undershoot Opec supply by 1 million barrels. Increased Iraqi oil for food exports could add another million barrels at current prices.

Commentary, page 25

BUSINESS TODAY

Table with financial data including Stock Market Indices, US Rate, London Money, Sterling, and Dollar.

Flight opposes GFH stake sale

BY RICHARD MILES, BANKING CORRESPONDENT HOWARD FLIGHT, co-founder of Guinness Flight Hambro, is to challenge the proposed sale of Guinness Mahon's stake in the fund management business to Investec, the South African banking group. Directors of Guinness Flight Hambro, who own 12 per cent of the company as well as holding "super-options", have appointed DLJ Phoenix, the US investment bank, to find a new owner for the Guinness Mahon stake and the 44 per cent owned by the Hambros Group. Mr Flight said yesterday he felt he had been "deceived" by the Bank of Yokohama (BoY), the Japanese owner of Guinness Mahon. He claimed that BoY pledged to sell the 44 per cent stake in Guinness Flight Hambro separately. Mr Flight, also Conserva-

Pound rises on evidence from Brown

THE pound is expected to test new highs against the German mark after Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, said he would take no action to undermine the strength of sterling (Janet Bush writes). Yesterday the pound rose above DM3.10, trading at DM3.1085 mid-morning. The sterling index rose to 109.2. Exporters wanted Mr Brown to use his appearance before the Treasury Select Committee to reduce the pound's value. He said he understood exporters' fears but it would be wrong to be "diverted in our long-term objectives of creating high levels of growth and employment... by short-term pressures, which if we gave in to them would merely lead to a return to stop-go policies." Brown's long view, page 2 Anatole Kaletsky, page 18

Ladbroke deal goes to MMC

BY DOMINIC WALSH LADBROKE GROUP is expected to be forced to dispose of up to 100 betting shops in order to win regulatory approval for its £363 million takeover of Coral. Industry observers believe yesterday's decision by the President of the Board of Trade to refer the matter to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission is unlikely to block the deal. Margaret Beckett, in accordance with the advice of Office of Fair Trading, has asked the MMC to submit a report by July 7, arguing the acquisition "raises competition concerns in relation to the off-course betting market". She is thought to be concerned at the resultant 36 per cent market share. Ladbroke, which announced the deal on New Year's Day, had hoped to avoid a referral by arranging

Commentary, page 25

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Computacenter pair to get £235m each



Mike Norris, left, and Tony Conophy, finance director

BY CHRIS AYRES PHILIP HULME and Peter Ogden, the two founders of Computacenter who met at Harvard Business School in the 1970s, will be worth up to £235 million each when they float their computer services company in May. The executives each hold stakes of about 26 per cent in the company, which analysts have valued at between £800 million and £900 million. However, many in the City believe that Computacenter, the fourth largest private company in the UK, could be worth more than £1 billion. Mr Hulme, 49, and Mr Ogden, 50, will also create more than a dozen millionaires among staff when Computacenter comes to the market. About 18 per cent of the company is owned by employees. Mr Hulme was a management consultant before setting up the company with Mr Ogden in 1981. Mr Ogden held senior positions at Merrill Lynch and Morgan Stanley before joining Computacenter full time in 1987. He is now a non-executive director, and also holds part-time directorships at Abbey National and Anglo & Overseas Trust. The two men will sell only a small proportion of their shares when the company floats. Not much new funding is expected to be raised when the company comes to the market because its borrowings are modest. The rest of Computacenter is owned by venture capitalists and institutions, including Apax Partners and Foreign & Colonial. Mike Norris, chief executive, said: "We think that the time is right to float, we're not desperate. Liquidity will be required at some time." Computacenter also revealed that its pre-tax profits had risen 38 per cent last year from £34 million to £47 million on sales of £1.1 billion, up 28 per cent from £882 million.

Available on M-CARD 1700 737 compromise



### Hepworth overhaul cuts costs

Hepworth, the heating products and building materials company, said a radical overhaul of its businesses, which gave rise to a net exceptional charge of £68.9 million, had significantly reduced costs and created a more competitive business.

The company, which sold its refractories division during the course of a six-month review ordered by new chief executive Jean-François Chêne, yesterday reported pre-tax losses of £11.7 million for 1997, against profits of £67.6 million in 1996. Profits from continuing businesses fell to £56 million from £62 million.

Adjusted earnings fell to 15.4p a share from 17.6p. The total dividend is cut to 9p a share from 14.85p, with a 6p final. The shares fell 5p to 264p yesterday.

Tempus, page 26

### Menzies deal

John Menzies, which is selling its newspapers to concentrate on its news distribution business, is to form a 50-50 joint venture with Lufthansa Airport and Ground Services, named London Cargo Centre, to acquire and operate Lufthansa's cargo terminal at Heathrow. The terminal provides handling services for Lufthansa, Cathay Pacific, Thai Airways and South African Airways.

### Oxford grows

Acquisitions have provided a platform for growth for Oxford Molecular, pushing the drug research company into the black for the first time. The company reported 1997 pre-tax profits of £256,000, compared with losses of £184 million in 1996. Earnings were 0.2p a share (3.3p loss). Again, there is no dividend.

### Pressac blow

Shares in Pressac, the electrical equipment group, divided from 330½p to 299½p yesterday after the company reported a rise in pre-tax profits of 54 per cent to £4.5 million, a rise in earnings of 10 per cent to 5.18p and an increase in the half-year dividend of 10 per cent to 1.21p.

### B2 rebrand

7-Eleven, the convenience stores chain, is to disappear from the high street next month after Budgets, its new owner, rebrands it B2. The new name will make its first appearance in Pimlico, London, and spread across the country by the end of next year.

# United Assurance provision for mis-selling rises to £170m

By MARIANNE CURPHEY  
INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

UNITED ASSURANCE yesterday said it had more than doubled its provision for mis-selling personal pensions and had so far failed in its search for a new chief executive.

The provision has been increased from £71 million at the end of 1996 to £170.6 million. This figure includes new "phase 2" mis-selling cases, which have to be completed by the end of this month.

Profits, which were in line with expectations, were boosted

by a £55 million transfer from the shareholders' long-term funds. This surplus, known as orphan assets, will yield a 6.6 per cent annual investment return after an agreement reached with the Department of Trade and Industry.

Analysts expressed concern that a replacement had not yet been found for George Mack who resigned unexpectedly as chief executive last November and left the group in January. One said: "This leaves United Assurance in a very vulnerable position." But some said it

had a clear strategy and was financially strong enough to survive without an immediate appointment.

Bill McDonald, group finance director, said no deadline had been set for finding a new candidate for the job. He said: "It is important to get the right person. If that takes longer, so be it. It is an attractive job and I am confident that we will find a suitable candidate."

Asked whether an internal candidate might fit the bill, he said the "board is looking at all possibilities".

Operating profit before tax and exceptional items on continuing operations increased for the full year from £199 million in 1996 to £305 million last year. This included an investment return of £149.5 million on shareholders' retained capital up from £27.5 million the previous year. The company said the figure was before exceptional items.

The management also announced that it had opened talks with the Government over the possible merger of the two life funds. Some analysts believe that if the Government

agrees to the merger, the company will benefit from efficiencies and cost savings. However, the company said the matter was unlikely to be resolved before the end of the year.

The company has cleared 95 per cent of its 3,500 most urgent cases and has cleared or made offers in 75 per cent of its priority two and three cases.

The total dividend was lifted 16.7 per cent to 21p and earnings per share before exceptional items were 59.7p (33p).

Tempus, page 26

### Trio plan joint bid for radio licence

By CHRIS AYRES

TALK RADIO is set to join forces with Classic FM and Chris Evans's Ginger Group later this week to bid for a national digital radio licence. It has already been revealed that Classic FM, owned by GWR, the commercial radio group, and Ginger Group will jointly bid for the licence through a consortium named Digital One. However, Talk Radio has not yet officially confirmed its involvement.

The Radio Authority last week invited companies to apply for the national digital licence, which will give the winner 12 years to establish a rival digital service to the BBC. The addition of Talk Radio to the Digital One consortium will make it much harder for rival media groups such as Capital and Emap to compete — one insider described it as "a pretty powerful combination".

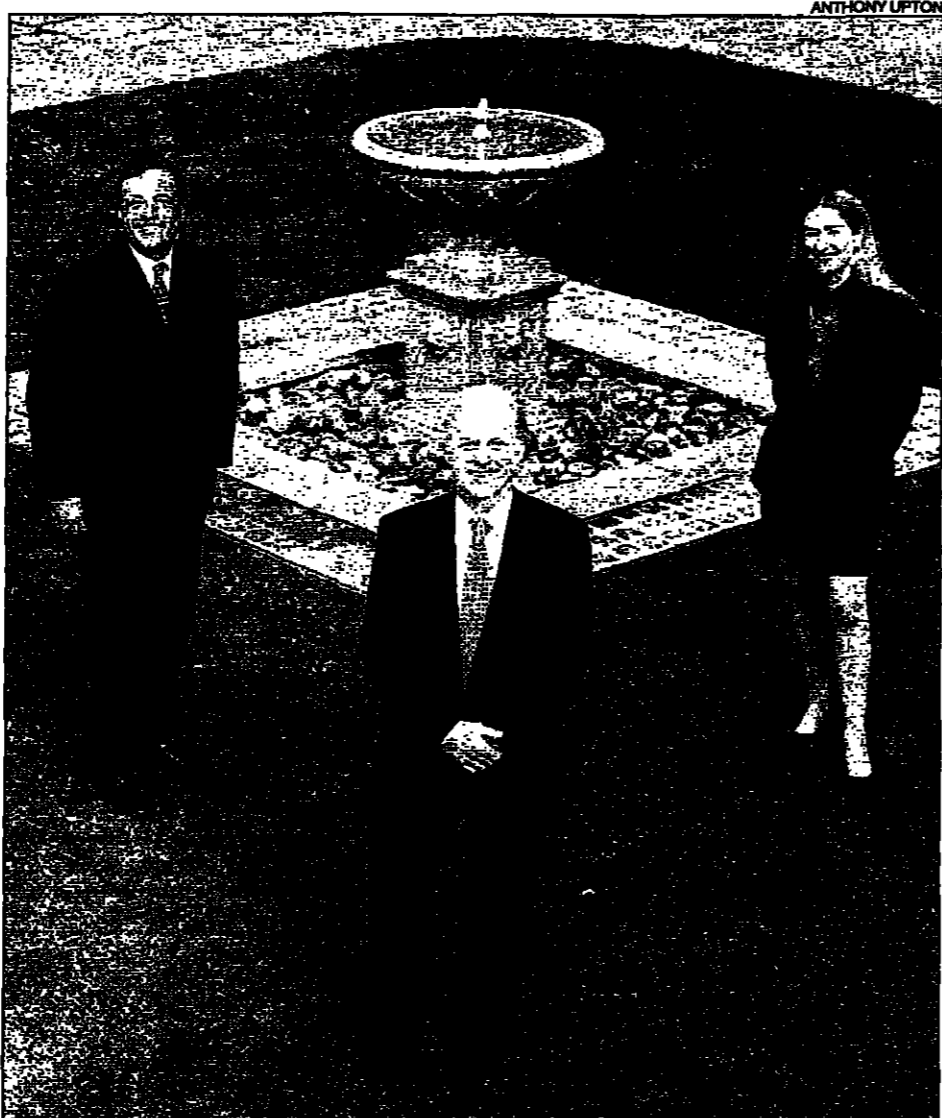
The licence will allow the consortium to broadcast about seven channels, plus a data channel. Sources close to the consortium say it is considering launching a real-time stock market data service.

Listeners will have to buy new radios to receive digital broadcasts.

The integration of Talk Radio into the consortium emerged yesterday as GWR revealed that profits growth at Classic FM had not been as strong as expected during the second half of its financial year. Its yearly results will be published in June.

Shares in GWR fell 15p to 177½p, compared with a recent high of 230½p last year. Classic FM only recently broke into operating profit, which reached £1.8 million at GWR's half year.

GWR said Classic FM's revenues have recovered.



Tim Eggar, left, Tony Craven Walker and Liz Airey, finance director, yesterday

### Monument calls for cash

By CARL MORTSHED

MONUMENT OIL & Gas, the exploration company of which Tim Eggar, the former Energy Minister, is chief executive, intends to raise £100 million in a rights issue.

News of the proposed cash call, the terms of which have yet to be decided, surprised the stock market, causing the share price to fall 5p to 61½p.

Only last year, Monument completed a complex capital restructuring, repaying more

than £30 million to shareholders. The oil company said it was deliberately choosing to raise cash at the oil market's nadir. Tony Craven Walker, chairman, said: "The industry is about to enter a period of restructuring. Asset prices have been too expensive and people will begin take a more realistic view of how the world looks."

He said the money was needed to give Monument the

equity base on which to raise debt finance for expansion. Monument's four-year investment plans could involve expenditure of up to £600 million.

News of the cash call accompanied announcement of a 60 per cent rise in Monument's net profit for 1997 to £19.65 million. Oil and gas output rose by 50 per cent, mainly due to a surge in production from Liverpool Bay.

### TUC puts case for unions to Beckett

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY  
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE TUC will today resume its battle for full union recognition in a meeting with Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade.

A delegation will lobby for key demands from the Confederation of British Industry to be rejected as the Government prepares its White Paper on fairness at work.

John Monks, General Secretary of the TUC, said yesterday that the main rift in talks with the Government over recognition were voting turn out and the size of companies to be covered by legislation. Mr Monks was speaking after a special TUC executive meeting that followed talks on Monday with the Prime Minister. He said the CBI's plans for minimum turn out meant that non-votes would be more damaging than no votes to the chances of a ballot being won.

Mr Monks said there should be no exclusion of small firms from the new law, adding: "Many of the worst employment conditions are in small firms." He said that if companies employing fewer than 50 people were exempt from recognition eight million workers would lose out.

With the White Paper only weeks away, Mr Monks conceded that most of the main issues were unresolved. Some sources believe publication of the paper may slip to May but Mr Monks believed it was on course for this month.

AN NOP poll, published today, of 100 companies by People in Business, the management consultancy, found that most employees felt their relations with trade unions were unlikely to be affected by proposed recognition of unions or by European Union legislation.

### BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### BCCI liquidators win High Court order

THE liquidators of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) have obtained a High Court order to the value of \$10 million (£6 million) against Moizul Haque, a former BCCI employee now fugitive in Pakistan. Mr Haque was responsible for handling the accounts of the Virani Group, formerly chaired by Nazim Virani, who was jailed for two and a half years in 1995 for his part in the BCCI fraud.

The judgment enables the liquidators to seize Mr Haque's pension, which is currently frozen, and paves the way for the possible seizure of assets in other jurisdictions. Payments were made — including \$3.6 million to prop up BCCI Canada — using an offshore company and a Swiss bank. False documents were created in the BCCI books in the name of the Virani company. An arrest warrant for Mr Haque was issued by the Serious Fraud Office in April 1992, nine months after BCCI was shut down by the Bank of England with losses of \$10 billion.

### PGA stake for ClubCorp

CLUBCORP, the US golf club company that owns or manages 220 golf clubs worldwide, yesterday paid £6.5 million for the 22.9 per cent stake in PGA European Tour Courses controlled by Richard Thompson, who is stepping down as chairman of PGA. Industry sources believe that ClubCorp will raise its stake to 29.9 per cent, and may eventually launch an outright takeover bid. PGA saw a drop in 1997 pre-tax profits to £1.2 million (£2.8 million). There is no final dividend (0.5p).

### Chiroscience-Zeneca deal

CHIROSCIENCE, the drug development company, has given Zeneca the exclusive rights to market its new anaesthetic, Chirocaine. Shares in Chiroscience rose 50p to 323½. Zeneca has also bought a £15 million stake at £4.25 a share, giving it a 3.2 per cent stake in the company. The agreement gives Zeneca worldwide rights to Chirocaine, excluding Japan. Chiroscience will register Chirocaine in Europe and the US, after which Zeneca will market it.

### FirstGroup HK contract

FIRSTGROUP, Britain's largest bus operator, has beaten rival Stagecoach for control of Hong Kong's main private bus company. It will own 26 per cent of New World First, a joint venture with a new Hong Kong company, and will share the £30 million a year of revenue that the service is expected to collect. It intends to invest £42 million in restoring the network, and operate 88 routes with 700 buses from September. Shares of FirstGroup rose 1½p to a fresh high of 361½p.

### Dairy group in the red

RESTRUCTURING costs of Ir£160 million (£129 million), have sent Avonmore Waterford, the Irish dairy and foods group, plunging to a pre-tax loss of Ir£117 million, compared with a profit of Ir£56 million the previous year. Pat O'Neill, managing director, predicted further consolidation in the dairy industry. Avonmore Waterford is the largest supplier of cheddar in Britain. At the operating level, profits rose 9 per cent to Ir£92 million and the dividend rises 9 per cent to 4.9p.

### Telemetrix warning

TELEMETRIX, the troubled electronic components company, yesterday gave warning that its 57 per cent owned US subsidiary, GTT Corporation, would make substantially heavier losses in the first quarter than its fourth quarter losses of \$1.6 million (£958,000). GTT's first quarter revenues will also be significantly lower because of "an overall softening in demand". Shares in Telemetrix fell 4½p to 45½p, compared with nearly 200p four years ago.

### Rathbone advances 36%

RATHBONE BROTHERS, the fund managers, raised pre-tax profits by 36 per cent to £13 million in the year to December 31 on turnover up from £35.8 million to £50.5 million. Earnings after exceptional items rose from 24.87p to 24.95p out of which the total dividend rises 22 per cent to 14p after payment of a 9.0p final. The company took an exceptional charge of £2.3 million to cover the cost of an office move. Micky Ingall, chairman, said: "We continue to seek further acquisitions."

### Cornwell Parker rises

CORNWELL PARKER, the furnishings and fabrics company, is increasing the interim dividend to 1.3p a share from 1p after reporting an 8.5 per cent increase in underlying pre-tax profits to £3.31 million in the six months to January 31. Adjusted earnings rose 13 per cent to 5.3p a share. The company, which has concluded a wide-ranging restructuring, said furniture sales rose 3 per cent but fabric sales were virtually unchanged at £21.6 million (£21.7 million).

### Johnson Matthey deal

JOHNSON MATTHEY, the metals and electronic materials group, has sold its 87.6 per cent interest in Otavi Mines, the German perlite processing and minerals processing and trading operation, to Silver & Baryte, of Greece. Net proceeds from the sale of the business, part of Cookson Matthey Ceramics, were £17 million. Perlite is insulating material used in the construction industry. Johnson Matthey recently acquired 100 per cent of Cookson Matthey Ceramics.

### Fenner sells division

FENNER, the engineering company, is raising £50 million with the sale of its power transmission division to FPT Group, a buy-in company backed by Morgan Grenfell Development Capital. In the year to August 31, 1997, the division contributed operating profits of £6.5 million on sales of £102.5 million, accounting for almost 39 per cent of total group turnover. After the disposal Fenner will focus on advanced engineering products, conveyor belt and fluid power.

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Why not change the way we work?

### Save optimistic on petrol market

By KATHY LIPARI

SAVE GROUP, the petrol retailer, has predicted an upturn in fortunes as the forecourt price war subsides.

James Frost, chairman, yesterday admitted he had misjudged the market in 1997 but was optimistic lower crude prices and improving margins would deliver improved results in 1998.

The company reported a 13 per cent decline in pre-tax profits to £9 million in 1997 but an exceptional loss of £1.7 million extended the decline to 30 per cent with profits before tax of £7.3 million.

A price war started by the Esso Price Watch campaign in 1995 drastically reduced profits within the industry and caused the closure of about

2,700 sites, including 795 in 1997, Save said.

Mr Frost conceded the recent upturn could be "another false dawn" but said it could be the start of a sustained period of growth with margins at their highest levels in over two years and the company "fully competitive" for the first time during this period.

The company has signed a deal with Postal Facilities to install a post box at all of its 411 sites over the next two years in a bid to encourage more customers.

Earnings fell 25 per cent to 9.7p a share but a total dividend is maintained at 7.1p, with a 3.9p final.

Tempus, page 26

### British Energy eliminates debt

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH ENERGY, the nuclear power company, is next month expected to reveal that it is debt free less than two years after it was privatised with net borrowings of £700 million.

The company has also become the country's largest generator, demoting National Power into second place.

Elimination of debt, to be confirmed at the time of the company's full-year results, will raise hopes of British Energy returning cash to investors, possibly by way of a share buy-back.

British Energy was 44 per cent geared when it floated two years ago with a value of £1.4 billion.

But strong cash generation

has enabled the company to repay debts more quickly than expected. The shares plunged on the first day of trading but they now trade at 524½p, against the fully paid flotation price of 198p. British Energy's financial year ended yesterday.

Earlier this year National Power said electricity output for the year to March 31 would not exceed 60 terawatts (60 million million watts). By the end of February British Energy's output stood at 60.88 terawatts with March figures still to be added to complete the full year.

Next month the National Audit Office is expected to broadly support the sale of British Energy.

### Name change and election dull spot muffles Chime

By JON ASHWORTH

CHIME Communications, the media group headed by Sir Tim Bell, turned in a flat set of profits last year, in the wake of a disruptive change of name, and a debilitating general election.

Chime, whose public relations arm, Lowe Bell, lost the right to use the Lowe name, and is now called Bell Pottinger, increased turnover to £42.4 million (£33.7 million) in the year to December 31. The figures include two months' contribution from HHCL, the advertising group. However, operating

margins dipped slightly to 13 per cent (13.5 per cent) and pre-tax profits were only slightly ahead at £3.8 million (£3.7 million). Earnings per share slipped to 3.8p (4.5p). Sharply increased cash balances of £6.7 million (£2.6 million) helped Chime to squeeze an extra £118,000 in investment income towards profits.

Sir Tim said a "period of inactivity" around the election had affected margin levels and revenue per employee.

A final dividend of 1.25p a share (1.15p) makes a total of 1.9p (1.7p) for the year.



Sir Tim: margins squeezed

### Rugby restructure reaps rich rewards

By KATHY LIPARI

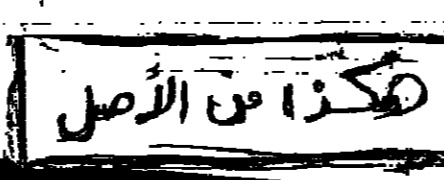
THE restructuring programme of Rugby Group, the building materials company, is paying off, the group said yesterday, after reporting a better than expected 20 per cent increase in profits to £77 million before tax and exceptional items in 1997.

Peter Johnson, chief executive, said the group was on track to meet its cost saving targets of £15 million in its UK joinery business and was saving around \$15 million (£9 million) per annum in its US distribution businesses.

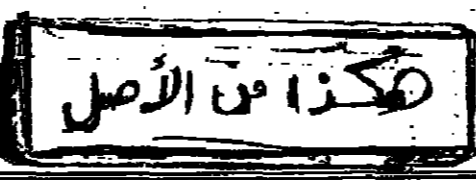
Turnover fell 11 per cent to £1.07 billion in 1997 after the

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.69	2.45
Austria Sch	22.75	21.08
Belgium Fr	66.06	62.00
Canada \$	2.57	2.19
Cyprus Cyp£	0.944	0.872
Denmark Kr	12.38	11.49
Finland Mk	6.94	6.19
France Fr	10.83	10.62
Germany Dm	3.26	3.02
Greece Dr	269	234
Hong Kong \$	13.81	12.61
India Rs	134	129
Ireland P£	6.42	5.77
Israel Sh	1.29	1.29
Italy Lit	3228	2989
Japan Yen	228.15	220.82
Malta M	0.701	0.642
Netherlands Gld	3.76	3.81
New Zealand \$	3.17	2.98
Norway Kr	13.35	12.40
Portugal Esc	202.23	207.20
S. Africa R	6.13	6.17
Spain Ptas	166.08	154.04
Sweden Kr	14.19	13.25
Switzerland Fr	2.70	2.49
Turkey Lira	411228	391300
USA \$	1.782	1.638

Notes for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.







# CBI sledgehammers the nut



## COMMENTARY by our City Editor

A dair Turner was playing to the gallery last night. Being Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry offers scope to hob-nob with politicians and pontificate with the leaders of the business world. It also means taking note, on occasion, of the sensibilities of the members.

Speaking at the CBI's north-west annual dinner, Turner adjudged it politic to moan on about the high level of sterling and the dire strains it is putting on exporters. He has been playing on the political stage long enough to recognise the need to sympathise with his constituents. In the case of organisations such as the CBI, more than mere votes are at stake: the members pay the salaries of employees like Mr Turner.

So he insisted that exporters had been valiantly doing all they could to cope with the rising pound, maintaining volumes but only at the expense of margins. Now, he said, they had made all the sacrifices that could be made and the result must mean a sharp setback to exports. The Bank of England must now help by massaging the pound down to a lower level, he pleaded.

This request, however important, was surely what his Manchester audience wanted to hear. They might have bridled had he mentioned the significantly lower raw material costs

which should, to an admittedly limited extent, be providing some mitigation.

He would have risked being on the receiving end of a barrage of bread rolls had he made any reference to the fact that employers are paying out wage increases well ahead of inflation and generally not compensated for by productivity gains. And had he dared to cite the pay packages that directors are awarding themselves, with rises routinely into double figures, he might have found himself heading rapidly towards one of Gordon Brown's well-intentioned schemes for getting the unemployed back to work.

So instead of backing the rather brusque line that the Chancellor gave to the Treasury Committee yesterday, effectively telling industry to make the best of a strong economy, Turner called for an entry into the single currency as a means to aid exporters.

Given the huge implications, political and social as well as economic, of joining EMU, this seems a rather desperate stance for the CBI's DG to take. Although the organisation's own

polls have shown a majority of members in favour of joining the single currency, warm words about EMU were surely unnecessary to woo his Manchester audience.

North West manufacturers might find their margins hit harder by the need to comply with European employment costs than ever they were by a strong pound.

### Troll effect gets frosty reception

All Fools' Day looks the appropriate date for oil producers' belated attempt to undo the damage they inflicted on their own business.

For no good reason other than diplomatic pragmatism, Opec members agreed to raise their own production quotas by 10 per cent or 2.5 million barrels per day

in November. If that were ever justified to maintain the old cartel's market share, it became nonsense when Asian tigers started mewing with economic pain.

Oil exporters managed to gush in a fools' paradise while Iraq and the West were straining chin to chin. Once all had become artificial smiles and the UN was thinking of clearing the way for Iraq to pump a further 700,000 barrels per day, Brent crude was soon down to \$13 a barrel or less and oil producers were looking at their worst prospects since 1986.

As soon as it was announced that Mexico and other outsiders were to join Opec volunteers in emergency output cuts for the rest of 1998, the psychological impact on the oil markets was palpable. As reality dawned, Opec's renewed promise that combined Opec and non-Opec

output will fall by 1.5-1.6 million barrels left crude prices sagging back near \$14 a barrel. Hardly an impressive follow-through from the original target of at least 1.6 to 2 million barrels.

The heralded "troll effect" of Norway joining the turncocks' day out at the last moment coincided with a relapse in the price of Brent crude. That is perhaps as well for international relations, whatever America thinks of its Nafsa partner's behaviour. If the price support scheme had much impact, someone in the European Union was certain to point out that the Treaty of Rome obliges any price fixing attempt by companies trading in the union to be registered and vetted.

That recently embarrassed a South African platinum deal with much less significance for the economy. Only in Britain, where

tax takes about four fifths of the wholesale petrol price, is Gordon Brown's 4.4p on a litre of unleaded far more significant to the changes currently facing consumers than anything that Opec and its new-found friends can or cannot do.

### A case of too many Cooks

The odds are lengthening against the Office of Fair Trading's unofficial guidance procedures yielding any reliable information. Yesterday, three months after the deal was done, Ladbroke's purchase of Coral's betting shops is headed to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. This will, no doubt, appease the Foreign Secretary, who had, with his usual tact and diplomacy, voiced his qualms over the deal.

But the time and expense of an MMC inquiry is something that Ladbroke's Peter George had thought it sensible to avoid. Hence he took the informal guidance process seriously and, after listening to what the Gov-

ernment experts said, he parcellled up the betting shops which might cause offence and sold them to the Tote. He could easily have tossed out another 50 or 100 shops without nullifying the value of the deal. In the end, that is likely to be the price that the MMC demands for allowing the acquisition to go through.

Does British competition policy really have to operate this way? If regional concentration is to be the criteria, then surely there could be guidelines which were discernible enough to those dishing out unofficial guidance for them to divine the right answer. Otherwise, there should be a speedier decision about whether or not a deal deserves the attention of the MMC. Mrs Beckett, not Mr Cook, should demand action.

### Merger option

INVESTORS are not the only ones deprived of major gains by the failure of the Glaxo and SmithKline Beecham merger. It now seems that executives would have been in for massive windfalls if the deal succeeded. But incentive schemes, even generous ones, need not be poison pills. They should convert into options in the merged company. Otherwise, the interests of investors and executives could diverge.

### Jefferson in position to spend Ir£1bn

JEFFERSON SMURFIT, the Irish paper and packaging group, yesterday said it was considering spending up to Ir£1 billion (£800,000) on an acquisition or returning up to Ir£200 million to shareholders (Chris Ayres writes).

Jefferson reported a 25 per cent fall in pre-tax profits for the year to December 31 from Ir£201 million to Ir£150 million. Sales were almost unchanged at Ir£2.6 billion, while earnings per share fell 22 per cent from Ir£2.6p to Ir£1.9p.

The company will pay a first interim dividend for this year of Ir 2.97p on June 30 instead of a final dividend for last year, when the final dividend was Ir 2.7p.

## LucasVarity remains keen on ITT deal

By Adam Jones

LUCASVARITY, the automotive group, still wants to use the bulk of its £1 billion war chest to buy the brakes arm of ITT Industries, despite disappointing those who expected news of a major acquisition with its annual results yesterday.

Victor Rice, LucasVarity's chief executive, refused to comment on ITT but is still thought to want a deal once regulatory concerns are addressed.

The ITT division, which has been valued at about £700 million, includes Teves, an anti-lock brake business that would greatly strengthen LucasVarity's existing presence in that market.

Tony Lancelotti, an analyst with Albert E Sharp, said he

thought LucasVarity was likely to win any bidding, particularly as Bosch, the rival brakes group, was likely to face insurmountable antitrust objections if it bid.

Despite side-stepping the ITT issue, Mr Rice did say LucasVarity was looking hard at the Far East for bargains in braking and aerospace.

LucasVarity was announcing pre-tax profit of £329 million for the year to January 31, the first full year since Lucas of the UK merged with Varity of the US. The figure does not include £13 million of exceptional disposal losses.

Comparison with 1996 is complicated by the merger. According to pro forma com-

bined accounts, profits were £282 million in 1996.

Turnover was up 1.8 per cent to £4.68 billion, despite the strong pound reducing reported sales by £281 million. Unfavourable exchange rates also reduced operating profits by £24 million. Pre-exceptional earnings per share rose from 13.1p to 16p after the group bought back 3 per cent of shares.

The share price, which fell initially, made up ground late in the day after the company met analysts, closing at 241 1/2p, up from 238p. A final dividend of 2.25p a share will be paid on July 1, giving a total of 4.5p.

Tempus, page 26

### Derma-graft delayed by US regulator

WORRIES about the prospects for Smith & Nephew's wonder product, Derma-graft, surfaced yesterday as the company revealed that US regulators had warned its joint venture partner that manufacturing facilities were not up to the mark (Carl Mortished writes).

Smith & Nephew shares fell 8 per cent after news that the Food and Drug Administration had warned Advanced Tissue Sciences that its facility did not comply with FDA requirements.

Derma-graft is already approved for use in the UK and other countries. Smith & Nephew hopes to secure 10 per cent of a \$2.5 billion (£1.5 billion) market in the product that is used to treat diabetic foot ulcers.

## Metromail board backs GUS offer

By Sarah Cunningham, Retail Correspondent

GREAT Universal Stores was poised to claim victory in the acrimonious battle for control of Metromail, the US database company, after it secured the recommendation of Metromail's board.

All that is now preventing the completion of the \$34.50 (£20) per share deal is an application to appeal lodged by rival bidder, American Business Information, in the US courts yesterday. ABI failed last week to block the GUS bid in the Delaware Chancery Court and has requested an appeal hearing on April 8.

GUS said yesterday that it would vigorously oppose ABI's latest application.

ABI was offering \$37.48 in cash and stock, well above

GUS's offer. But Metromail's board plumped for the GUS offer because ABI was unable to supply detailed financial guarantees within the time period set by Metromail.

The spotlight is now poised to turn on GUS's £1.6 billion hostile bid for Argos, the catalogue showroom retailer.

GUS's decision to increase its bid for Metromail from its original \$31.50 has convinced many analysts that it will also increase its bid for Argos from the current 570p a share to between 620p and 670p.

Ashley Thomas of SG Securities, said he thinks that GUS would have to pay at least 630p a share to secure the deal. Argos shares closed 2 1/2p higher at 623 1/2p.

### Dewar's sale encourages Highland

ONE company that has been watching the sale of Dewar's Scotch whisky to Bacardi with interest is the Highland Distilleries Company, whose Famous Grouse brand sells a similar number of cases (Dominic Walsh writes).

Unveiling a 1 per cent rise in interim pre-tax profits to £25.1 million yesterday, Brian Ivory, chairman of Highland, said: "Bacardi and others clearly believe there is a strong future for Scotch."

Highland reported a 7 per cent rise in operating profit to £20.8 million from turnover 3 per cent ahead at £113.7 million. Fully diluted earnings per share were 11.8p (11.9p); the interim dividend is 2.2p (2.1p).

And suddenly Joe Public,  
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STOCK MARKET



FRASER NELSON

Plunge by Orange leaves broker nursing £8m loss

THE FLOP in shares of Orange, the mobile phone company, has left SBC Warburg...



Brian Ivory, left, and Jamie Wilson saw Highland shares soften after reporting results in line with expectations

The broker bought the shares at 395p and sold part of the 16 per cent stake on Thursday...

At present, SBC Warburg is nursing a £8.01 million book loss - on its stake of more than 4 per cent.

whisky, softened 2p to 267 1/2 p after half-year results in line with expectations.

Shares of Verity Group which have doubled over the past year, took a breather, 1/2 p easier at 96p.

Next's bounce was eclipsed only by the erratic performance of Nycomed NV...

The FTSE 100 stood still most of the day, but a strong opening in Wall Street buoyed the index up 20.3 points overall...

As the last day of the first quarter-year, March 31 is normally dominated by broking houses tweaking their share portfolios at the last minute.

There was some demand for Hays, 42p firmer at 107 1/2 p after completing a tour of institutions.

Scottish & Newcastle, which has lagged its rivals and the sector in recent weeks, gained 4.4 per cent to 94 1/2 p yesterday on some positive comment from brokers.

Smith & Nephew, off 12p to 166p, has been heavily punished for a glitch in its attempts to produce a new skin graft product.

Since its inception in 1985, the FTSE healthcare index has consistently underperformed the market.

Instead, the supermarkets are selling the nappies and the sector in recent weeks, gained 4.4 per cent to 94 1/2 p yesterday on some positive comment from brokers.

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Bank. Security & General Media, which prints A level exam papers and gift vouchers, surged 43 per cent to 30p yesterday on news that its directors have spent £81,600 at 23.27p.

An unusual bout of profit-taking in the IT sector claimed 30p from shares of Mears, which closed at £29.80. Senas lost 5p to £23.65, but Logica firm opened 5p to £16.27p.

The sharpest mover of the day was Colver Holdings, a financial services company which has become one of the smallest stocks listed in London.

On the Alternative Investment Market, Westmount Energy was 10p better at 173 1/2 p. The company has a 20 per cent stake in Desire Petroleum.

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MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday): Dow Jones 8676.79 (+94.67) S&P Composite 1107.17 (+13.20)

Tokyo: Nikkei Average 16227.17 (+354.13) Hang Seng 11518.00 (+14.92)

Amsterdam: AEX Index 1126.43 (+2.57) Sydney: ASX 2744.2 (+3.2)

Frankfurt: DAX 5102.35 (+42.59) Paris: CAC 40 3875.81 (+75.53)

Zurich: S&K Gen 1538.00 (+7.02) London: FT 30 3766.1 (+15.8) FTSE 100 5992.2 (+20.3)

FTSE 250 3523.4 (+2.9) FTSE 350 2822.3 (+7.7) FTSE Europe 100 2853.7 (+10.79)

FTSE All-Share 2761.28 (+6.67) FTSE Non Financials 2761.28 (+6.67) FTSE Pled Interests 140.85 (+0.02)

FTSE Govt Secs 104.48 (+0.22) Barclays 6151 SEAO Volume 958.00 US\$ 1.6745 (+0.0031)

German Mark 3.9883 (+0.0016) Exchange Index 105.8 (+0.1) Bank of England official rate (ppm) ECU 1.3644

RPI 160.3 Feb (5.4%) Jan 1987-100 RPIX 158.5 Feb (2.6%) Jan 1987-100

RECENT ISSUES: Advent 2 VCT 900 -1, Eurotunnel 01/03 Ws 49 +5, Express Dairies 187 +5

Guardian IT 430 +2, Hartford Grp 3 +2, Monsoon 198 -1, Oxford Asymmetry 453 +4

Peel 1107 -1, Pennant Int 162 -1, Quanter VCT 2 90 -1, Safestor 181 -2

RIGHTS ISSUES: Cap & Regal n/p (280) 25, Oxford Bio n/p (10) 5, Faragon n/p (180) 39 +14

Westbury n/p (235) 14 -1, MAJOR CHANGES: RISES: Chiroscience 323p (+60p)

Gencor 121p (+11p) Awa Europe 211p (+15p) Next 579p (+28p)

Character Group 249p (+12p) Scot & New 845p (+40p) Burnah Castel 1218p (+48p)

Hays 1079p (+42p) Air London 270p (+10p) Real Time 442p (+15p)

Litram 317p (+10p) Blacks Leisure 389p (+12p) Ascot Holdings 305p (+9p)

Shire Pharms 410p (+11p) Williams 478p (+13p) Ocean Group 757p (+20p)

FALLS: Liberty 280p (-42p) Interurope 141p (-21p) Pressac 299p (-31p)

GWR Group 178p (-14p) Smith & Nephew 166p (-12p) HP Bulmers 372p (-25p)

Shield Dig 830p (-37p) Capital Radio 705p (-30p) Bodycote 1085p (-52p)

Closing Prices Page 29

TEMPUS In need of an ITT brake

THE battle for ITT's vehicle-braking division could be crucial for LucasVaryty. ITT, the US industrial company, has publicly put its brakes arm under review and many industry observers have assumed that a disposal will follow.

The mighty Bosch may not be able to buy it without falling foul of the US competition authorities, which, in theory, leaves LucasVaryty in pole position. And after the disposal of Varyty/Perkins, there is no shortage of cash sloshing around.

The ITT division would certainly give LucasVaryty more mass. The anti-lock car brakes made by its Teves subsidiary would augment LucasVaryty's light-truck ABS expertise.

Having said that, the ITT operation is big enough to be bought by a newcomer to the braking industry, so Victor Rice, LucasVaryty's chief executive, cannot afford to be complacent.

The general margin improvements show that there have been no big disasters in the integration of Lucas and Varyty, and Mr Rice yesterday unveiled a contract to supply ABS to General Motors vehicles. But on their own these are hardly inspirational.

The diesel systems division is suffering from having backed the wrong injection technology in pre-merger days at Lucas. It has \$650 million in future orders with customers such as Ford, typically kicking in around the year 2000, but Bosch products are in the market place now.

LucasVaryty argues that its kit will be technologically a step ahead, which may be a comfort. On a pile of about 13.4 hold the shares.

Europe do not provide an auspicious environment in which to virtually relaunch a business. On fundamentals last month's share price rally to 259p from 180p looks overdone and can only be explained by vague talk of a takeover bid. This is a good time to take profits before the froth evaporates.

At the heart of the restructuring are changes based on nothing more than common sense, raising questions about why they did not take place under the previous management.

The formation of a single heating division and the implementation of a new management structure in divisions responsible for building products and minerals and chemicals are overdue.

HOW long can United Assurance continue without a chief executive? Its sales force has just undergone a radical restructuring and it is barely 18 months since the group was born from the merger of United Friendly and Refuge.

Yet five months after the resignation of George Mack there is still no sign of a replacement. In the midst of this, new business premiums are expected to drop and the sales force, which is said to be suffering from low morale after a swathe of redundancies, needs time to adjust to the new regime.

Meanwhile, analysts believe the investment returns achieved last year are unlikely to be repeated in 1998. At such a time, United needs a strong leader with a clear strategic vision. In the group's favour, the balance sheet will receive an annual boost of 6.6 per cent of its shareholders' long-term

funds (known as orphan assets and currently worth £97 billion) under the terms agreed with the Department of Trade and Industry.

The belief among analysts that the short-term business prospects for 1997 together with improved dividend cover - I was wrong," he says, adding later: "This could be another false dawn but I believe that it could be the beginning of a sustained period of growth."

All this surrounded a discussion of why there will not be another petrol price war on the forecourts. Frost argues that the weak oil price means there is no reason for heavy discounting by the major retailers - Shell, Tesco and the like. But Frost can only argue. Save is such a small player that it has to fall in line with the others.

Despite the chairman's eloquence, Save shares remain a risky investment - unless you think a larger rival might be getting ready to step in.

Save Group FOR those with a sense of history, James Frost of Save Group is your man. Here is a chap who includes in his chairman's statement a reference to the Yom Kippur war in 1973 before discussing the

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The ITT division would certainly give LucasVaryty more mass. The anti-lock car brakes made by its Teves subsidiary would augment LucasVaryty's light-truck ABS expertise.

Having said that, the ITT operation is big enough to be bought by a newcomer to the braking industry, so Victor Rice, LucasVaryty's chief executive, cannot afford to be complacent.

The general margin improvements show that there have been no big disasters in the integration of Lucas and Varyty, and Mr Rice yesterday unveiled a contract to supply ABS to General Motors vehicles. But on their own these are hardly inspirational.

The diesel systems division is suffering from having backed the wrong injection technology in pre-merger days at Lucas. It has \$650 million in future orders with customers such as Ford, typically kicking in around the year 2000, but Bosch products are in the market place now.

LucasVaryty argues that its kit will be technologically a step ahead, which may be a comfort. On a pile of about 13.4 hold the shares.

Europe do not provide an auspicious environment in which to virtually relaunch a business. On fundamentals last month's share price rally to 259p from 180p looks overdone and can only be explained by vague talk of a takeover bid. This is a good time to take profits before the froth evaporates.

At the heart of the restructuring are changes based on nothing more than common sense, raising questions about why they did not take place under the previous management.

The formation of a single heating division and the implementation of a new management structure in divisions responsible for building products and minerals and chemicals are overdue.

HOW long can United Assurance continue without a chief executive? Its sales force has just undergone a radical restructuring and it is barely 18 months since the group was born from the merger of United Friendly and Refuge.

Yet five months after the resignation of George Mack there is still no sign of a replacement. In the midst of this, new business premiums are expected to drop and the sales force, which is said to be suffering from low morale after a swathe of redundancies, needs time to adjust to the new regime.

Meanwhile, analysts believe the investment returns achieved last year are unlikely to be repeated in 1998. At such a time, United needs a strong leader with a clear strategic vision. In the group's favour, the balance sheet will receive an annual boost of 6.6 per cent of its shareholders' long-term

funds (known as orphan assets and currently worth £97 billion) under the terms agreed with the Department of Trade and Industry.

The belief among analysts that the short-term business prospects for 1997 together with improved dividend cover - I was wrong," he says, adding later: "This could be another false dawn but I believe that it could be the beginning of a sustained period of growth."

All this surrounded a discussion of why there will not be another petrol price war on the forecourts. Frost argues that the weak oil price means there is no reason for heavy discounting by the major retailers - Shell, Tesco and the like. But Frost can only argue. Save is such a small player that it has to fall in line with the others.

Despite the chairman's eloquence, Save shares remain a risky investment - unless you think a larger rival might be getting ready to step in.

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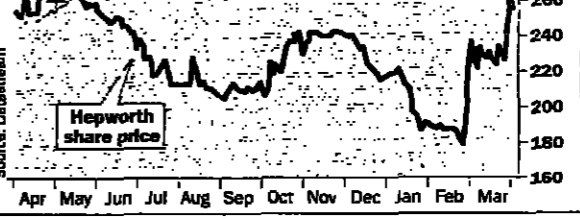
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THE HEAT IS ON



THE HEAT IS ON: A line graph showing the FTSE All-Share Index (rebased) and Hepworth share price from April to March. The FTSE index is shown as a solid line, and Hepworth's share price is shown as a dashed line. Both indices show a general upward trend over the period, with some volatility.

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# Industry must seek sterling's silver lining

Parallels are being drawn between the current rise of the pound and its potential impact on manufacturing industry and what happened because of sterling's appreciation in the early 1980s. In the early Thatcher years, Britain lost a large swath of its manufacturing capacity but the firms that survived were left leaner and meaner. Output did not return to the peak of December 1979 for eight long years but that output was delivered by one third fewer people.

The pain is not likely to be as great this time. Output fell by 17.5 per cent in the early 1980s. Even City pessimists are talking about zero, rather than negative, growth in manufacturing this year. In any case, doesn't the experience of the 1980s suggest that there could be a silver lining to this particular cloud in the form of a great leap forward in competitiveness?

It has been proven time and

again that industry scores its greatest gains under pressure from an overvalued exchange rate. Germany and Japan are prime examples. In the 1980s, America reacted to a strong dollar not only by cutting costs but also by investing in new technology.

In Britain, there were strong gains in productivity throughout the 1980s and even during the early 1990s recession but then the performance started to slip. Is it mere coincidence that companies lost their discipline almost as soon as sterling left the exchange-rate mechanism and pocketed virtually all the gains of the devaluation?

Manufacturers, currently crying foul over the Government's policy of benign neglect towards the pound, argue that they have

cut as much fat as they can. One only needs to look at the astonishing pay profligacy of SmithKline Beecham's board to know for certain that this is not true but, let me put aside, there is always plenty that firms can do to improve their competitive positions. Industries that face constant declines in their prices — in the computer industry for example — engage in a continual search for productivity improvement.

The drive for greater competitiveness is not likely to be a re-run of Britain in the 1980s which relied on savage cuts to workforces. In a future that, as Professor Sir James Ball, author of a new book, *The British Economy at the Crossroads*, will have services, the creative industries and informa-

and move to higher value-added products, in order to improve competitiveness. In Cool Britannia, this is exactly what we are told that Britain is uniquely capable of doing. Short-term pain notwithstanding, the strong pound could actually force British industry — whether in traditional manufacturing or in the service economy — to shift up a gear and finally close the productivity gap with Germany and others. It could also be argued that, if the euro is as soft a currency as many are assuming it will be at the start, Germany and its satellites will not be under enough pressure to improve productivity, giving Britain an even better chance of catching up.

DeAnne Julius, former chief economist at British Airways and

now one of the Monetary Policy Committee's avowed doves, acknowledges that a rising exchange rate forces companies into searching even harder for a competitive edge but productivity gains are ground out over a long period. "There could be a silver lining but it is a long-term silver lining," she said.

Whether companies are prepared to put in the groundwork depends crucially on whether they believe that the strength of the exchange rate will be sustained. If British firms believe, as the Bank of England appears to, that the pound's rise is a temporary phenomenon, there is little incentive to seek longer-term improvements in competitiveness rather than simply firing people. It may well

be that the pound remains relatively strong until it is subsumed into the euro. Its gains have largely been driven by the fact that the pound is to remain outside the single currency until early next century. If and when the time comes for it to join, European governments are likely to exact a price for Britain's delay in joining by demanding entry at a challenging rate. David Owen of Kleinwort Benson reckons their starting offer could be DM3.10, exactly where it is trading now.

So British industry may be stuck with the strong pound. If it tackles the problem now Britain could enter the euro at a high exchange rate (for indeed stay out with a high exchange rate) and still be super-competitive. That would be cool, Britannia.

*The British Economy at the Crossroads is published by Financial Times Pitman Publishing. Tel: 01704 508080.*



JANET BUSH

# Japanese start to wipe away tears in financial markets

Foreign firms vie for a slice of a newly freed market, says Megan Rowling

Japan is not a country to rush headlong into deregulation. The Tokyo "big bang" may officially begin on April Fool's Day but it is a deadly serious business for the financial institutions, both foreign and Japanese, that operate here. It is the start of a fundamental change to the way Japan operates and strikes fear into the heart of many in the strictly controlled Japanese financial markets. The Japanese Government hopes that its three-year financial deregulation programme will open up markets, making them "free, fair and global" — and everybody wants a piece of the action.

As promised, today brings the liberalisation of Foreign Exchange law and of commissions on securities transactions. These two moves may not have an immediate affect on the Japanese financial landscape, but as the regulatory walls separating banks, security companies and life insurers are torn down most agree that increased competition will bring about a dramatic transformation.

Paul Heaton, financial analyst in Deutsche Morgan Grenfell in Tokyo, said: "The Japanese Government has set off a lot more bangs than it realised and that is why the financial sector will change immeasurably."

Ministry of Finance officials must still shiver at the memory of a fearful Shohji Nozawa, president of Yamaichi Securities, apologising for the collapse of his firm last November. In the same month, Hokkaido Takushoku, a leading commercial bank, and Sanyo Securities, a second-tier broker, also went under. Despite hurriedly announced restructuring programmes, the outlook for Japan's weaker financial institutions remains bleak. The banking sector is still grappling with an estimated Y73 trillion (£322 billion) in



Andrew Simmonds, top, is optimistic, while Peter Whelpton, left, is cautious about liberalised life after the days when Shohji Nozawa lamented failure with tears

non-performing loans as the country teeters on the brink of recession. Throw in a liberal dose of scandal over bribery involving bureaucrats and major financial institutions and further tears seem certain.

Mr Heaton believes that for the Government the most worrying aspect of "big bang" will be the consequences of fierce competition for the country's weakest financial institutions. He predicts: "Quite a few medium-sized brokerages are likely to fail, there will be big winners and big losers."

Among winners are likely to be Japan's healthier and more innovative domestic institu-

tions, foreign players and Japanese consumers. For Mr and Mrs Watanabe, who have long put up with returns as low as 0.5 per cent on their savings, the reforms should lead to a greater choice of higher-yielding onshore and off-shore retail investment products. The burning question is what Japanese consumers will choose to do with their estimated Y1,250 trillion in personal savings over the next few years. Although foreign financial institutions have long coveted this pot of gold, they were prevented from establishing a significant presence in the retail market due to prohibitive costs

and regulatory barriers. But ahead of deregulation Japanese firms are eager to enlist the expertise of foreign asset managers. This has resulted in a number of international tie-ups over the past few months.

Jardine Fleming, half owned by Robert Fleming, the merchant bank, has linked up with ten Japanese firms to form Nippon Investor Securities, which will market domestic and foreign investment trust funds across Japan from June. Junichi Otsuka, director of administration of the joint venture estimates that the investment trust market will grow to around Y120 trillion over the

next few years — triple its current size. He predicts that, as a result of "big bang" reforms, money will flow out of bank deposits that currently account for around 80 per cent of savings and into higher-yielding products such as mutual funds. Foreign firms, which still have a small share of the retail investment market, hope to repeat the success they are experiencing on the institutional side.

Andrew Simmonds, head of Barclays Capital in Japan agrees that the current low level of mutualisation in the personal savings market offers "significant opportunities" for foreign asset managers. Barclays, which already manages Y1.8 trillion of institutional assets in Japan, received an investment trust management licence from the Ministry of Finance yesterday. It now hopes to make inroads into the retail market through sales of mutual funds and pensions.

A major issue for all foreign players in this sector, however, is distribution. Currently investment trust products are sold almost exclusively by brokerages, but commercial banks will be able to offer them over the counter for the first time from October.

The current dilemma is whether to opt for direct sales, an exclusive tie-up with a leading domestic institution or diversified marketing. Fidelity Investments of the US has chosen the direct route, including telesales. But some feel that Japanese consumers are not ready for the aggressive approach. Germany's Dresdner Bank is to offer joint asset management services with Meiji Life Insurance, Japan's fourth largest life insurer. The exclusive approach is also favoured by Deutsche Morgan Grenfell Asset Management, which is currently talking to prospective partners.

However, Peter Whelpton, president of NatWest Gartmore Investment Management Japan is sceptical about the long-term prospects for exclusive alliances between domestic and foreign players. "Almost all Japanese firms are trying to gain know-how in this field but I think the powerful ones really want to go it alone. It may be convenient for them to get into bed with foreign institutions for a while, but it pays to be wise about marriage before tying the knot."

Ultimately the success of the

retail asset management business in Japan depends on the willingness of consumers to invest their savings in high-return vehicles that also carry higher risk. One analyst at a British merchant bank gives warning that rising levels of unemployment and a lack of confidence in the financial system may steer individuals away from such investments.

Hiroshi Yamamoto, chief representative for DMG asset management in Japan explains that consumers lost confidence in equity based investment trusts after the collapse of Japan's "bubble" economy in the early 1990s.

"But once the domestic equity market recovers, the investment trust market will row again," he predicts. Over the next two to three years, DMG hopes to increase threefold the Y90 billion it currently manages in investment funds.

## BUSINESS LETTERS

### Give New Deal a chance but do not believe it will be absolutely painless

From M C Fitzpatrick  
Sir, Janet Bush ("Give the New Deal a chance to work", March 25) is surely right to say that the New Deal (to help put the unemployed back to work) must be given a chance.

The New Deal has been financed by a £5 billion levy on the utility companies, which have a combined market value of around £100 billion. However, her statement that the New Deal programme is "absolutely painless for the taxpayer" should perhaps be challenged.

It seems unlikely that one can extract tax equivalent to around 5 per cent of the market value of a sector without some long-term impact on the sector's share prices — in other words, utility share prices will overall be less than they would have been had the windfall tax never been invented. This in turn affects millions of taxpayers with pension funds, Peps, life assurance policies or in-

deed direct investments in utility companies.

Putting the above point to one side, the other way in which the New Deal is not "painless" to the taxpayer can be appreciated by speculating on what the money might otherwise have been used for.

For example, an extra £4bn could have been put into the NHS in the four years to 2001/02. Our widely publicised NHS waiting list model suggests that, had this been done, waiting lists might have been 500,000 lower by March 2002, than they will be in the absence of this extra £4bn.

Many taxpayers might have viewed such a reduction as a tangible achievement, against which the benefits of the New Deal will have to be judged.

Yours faithfully,  
M. C. FITZPATRICK,  
Head of Economics,  
Chantrey Vellacott,  
Russell Square House,  
10-12 Russell Square,  
London, WC1B 5LF

### The side of capitalism that is unacceptable

From C R Orchard,  
Sir, A company announces simultaneously record annual profits, enhanced dividends for shareholders, large bonuses for its directors and substantial redundancies among the workforce.

I find this repugnant. Those profits were made largely by the company's employees. They would have worked a good deal of unpaid overtime, in the hope that their dedication and loyalty would be rewarded by that company.

One reason for the directors acting in this way is that "no man can serve three masters". Shareholders expect good dividends. The directors want to make a killing. Does anybody on a board like that speak for the employees?

Two arguments are regularly used to defend this common scenario. Technology makes human beings an expensive

luxury and it is essential to outperform your rivals.

The first argument needs careful assessment. The benefits of a happy workforce giving better service because it is not stress-ridden are considerable. The second argument is problematical. Large companies should always make reasonable profits whatever their share of the market.

Our young people receive the messages that money matters and old people don't and that loyalty is folly. Society's strains will increase as there is increasing polarisation between the few rich and the many who struggle desperately.

Is this the kind of England we want? *Cui Bono?*

Yours faithfully,  
C. R. ORCHARD,  
41 Floral Farm,  
Canford Magna,  
Wimborne,  
Dorset, BH21 3AT.

## Classic art

IT SEEMS a curious way of commemorating the burning down of your home, building a fish pond and floating seven fondue sets in it, but this is art, and who am I to quibble? Sir Peter Michael, who made two fortunes at UEL and Cray Electronics and went on to found Classic FM, knows more than I do about the subject and commissioned sculptor William Pye to build "Fire & Water" when his home at Eddington, Berkshire, burnt down and was flooded in 1996.

The work adorns the terrace at his new restaurant and hotel, the Vineyard at nearby

Stockcross, and was unveiled by Sir Roy Strong yesterday. Sir Peter explained his latest venture thus: "When you get to my late stage in life [60 this year, not that he looks it], a lot of men decide to build a yacht. Was I going to build a yacht and use other people's restaurants, or build a restaurant and use other people's yachts?"

Which only leaves the vulgar question of how much it all cost. Sir Peter admits the kitchen of the restaurant alone set him back £1.5 million but stays mum on the sculpture. I am told they got to £150,000 and stopped counting.



William Pye's Fire & Water: a matter of taste?

□ "DUE to the cessation of their business" a three-day auction of 4,500 lots of fine art, furniture and other office effects is announced for the end of this month. The fine art is by various painters I have never heard of — my source says minor 19th century Scottish, so right up your street if you like stags and glens. I imagine. Canteen equipment includes a meat slicer. A clue, this: the sale is of unwanted property of Yamaichi, which packed up in disgrace three months ago. One meat slicer, slightly used on a succession of little fingers.



## Sterling work

The end of an era at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson as Johnny Cameron resigns as co-head of Global Asset Management. Johnny has been holding together the sterling bonds operation against all odds for ten years. Now he is returning to his roots as managing director of corporate and institutional banking at Royal Bank of Scotland.

The name is a giveaway, but no one speaking to Cameron would guess he is Scottish. "It is said the people from Inverness-shire speak the purest English," he tells me.

□ FULL marks to Sheila

Gunn, heard yesterday morning on Radio 4 on the uneasy relationship between spin doctors, No 10 and parliamentary correspondents. Her second performance in as many days on Radio 4, as it happens. She left The Times, of course, to act as an adviser to John Major in the difficult weeks before last year's general election.

Oddly, though, one of the preceding news items on the Today programme gave much prominence to a report by Healy & Baker, the property company, on urban regeneration. Must congratulate their PR, I thought. Who she? Oh, hi, Sheila, it's you again.

## Floored

LAST year a strange man called Michael Hardern tried to persuade Nationwide members to elect him to the board. His campaign was defeated by three votes to one. Hardern's many eccentricities, such as an arresting dress style, and his frequent publicity stunts counted against him.

This year's Michael Hardern runs a recruitment agency for accountants in Slough, which is dull enough, I suppose. Andy Muir's resolution to the July annual meeting, requiring between £50 and £5,000 to be handed over to each member, has been rejected by the Nationwide as "blatantly illegal and constitutionally". He claims they

won't say why. "I've requested details about this, and Charles Wilson, the group secretary, has said there's no way he's going to divulge any information," says Muir, "primarily because I'm planning to put a new resolution through which isn't legally flawed by Friday this week. I've got accountants and legal representatives working on it."

Instead, he has received a sarky letter from Wilson full of remarks about how "you may not appreciate" this and "it seems you believe" that Nationwide tells me even the minimum payment he suggests would wipe out the general reserve fund. "We feel we've done as much as can reasonably be asked of us."



Michael Hardern's successor is squaring up at Nationwide

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Rosaria Wilson, Wilson Kincaid

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I am interested in training myself ( ) staff ( ) (please tick relevant box)

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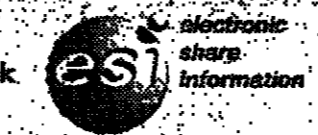
AAT



THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Main table containing unit trust prices, organized by fund type (e.g., Equity, Bond, Money Market, etc.) and listing fund names, prices, and changes.

Shocks and stocks. (Check out our startling new site.)



www.esi.co.uk

Footnote: Fund prices are based on the closing price of the unit trust on the previous business day. All prices are in pence per unit.



Equities hold steady

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Table of stock prices for various sectors including ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, CONSTRUCTION, DISTRIBUTORS, ELECTRICITY, ELECTRONIC & ELECT, ENGINEERING, ENGINEERING VEHICLES, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT, INSURANCE, LEISURE & HOTELS, MEDIA, MINING, OIL & GAS, PHARMACEUTICALS, PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, RETAILERS, RETAILERS - GENERAL, RETAILERS - FOOD, SUPPORT SERVICES, TRANSPORT, and WATER.

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Table of British Funds, including SHORTS (under 5 years), LONGS (over 15 years), UNDATED, and MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years).

Table of British Funds, including SHORTS (under 5 years), LONGS (over 15 years), UNDATED, and MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years).

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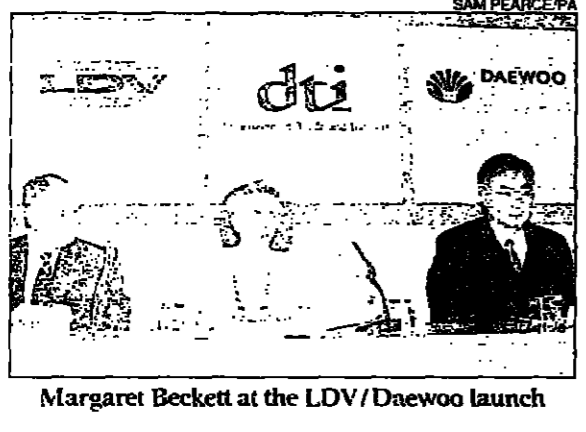
As President Kim Dae Jung begins a visit to Britain, Jennifer Veale introduces a special report on South Korea's financial fightback

## Soldiering on in a new battle

David Watts on 45 years of a special bilateral relationship

PRESIDENT Kim Dae Jung of South Korea arrived in Britain last night for a four-day visit, his first journey abroad since his inauguration in February. Britain has played host to three of his predecessors, and nobody who was there will forget Margaret Thatcher's visit to Korea in May 1986. For her the country epitomised the can-do spirit that animates the bilateral relationship. Anglo-Korean relations are always at their strongest during hard times. Many British soldiers barely knew where the country was when they were dispatched to the Korean War in 1951. Yet out of that conflict grew ties that continue to defy distance and cultural gulfs. Korea's gritty determination to pull itself back from the economic abyss and to take on South-East Asia's toughest competitors has earned it Britain's admiration. Who could have predicted Korea's prodigious success, or that the Korean population in Nineties Britain would be sufficient to support four weekly newspapers and two magazines. But although the Korean miracle has lost its lustre, there has not been a

stampede for the nearest exit by Korean companies investing in Britain. One big computer chip plant may have put things on hold but most companies seem determined to keep Korea in the top rank of foreign investing countries — as evidenced by Daewoo's £25 million stake in the British van maker LDV, born out of the former Leyland Daf group. The deal will see £160 million channelled into the company over the next five years, with the ultimate aim of quadrupling output to 80,000 vehicles a year and providing 2,000 new jobs by 2005. Development of the Daewoo Worthing Technical Centre is well advanced, and a new LDV/Daewoo van range will be launched early in the new millennium. Manufacturing will start in Daewoo's Polish plant in Lublin, and there after will be split with the Birmingham branch. Anglo-Korean trade — which passed the £1.9 billion mark in 1997 — reached £4.3 billion for the year to end-November 1997. And it seems likely to see further growth, given the competitive prices that South Korean companies will now be able to offer.



Margaret Beckett at the LDV/Daewoo launch

South Korea's nationhood has been distinguished by resilience in the face of foreign invasion, but this year a foreign invasion of a gentler kind is what the country needs to survive another crisis.

It has seen some spectacular reversals of fortune in recent years, mirroring its tumultuous history as a nation sandwiched between superpowers. Korea as we now know it would probably not exist if it were not for the fighting qualities of the Shilla dynasty, which unified the peninsula in AD668 after many years of Chinese domination. This dynasty institutionalised the iron-edged social hierarchy and respect for authority that remain as powerful forces in Korean society.

A distinct and complex culture evolved over the next 1,500 years; then in 1910 Japanese forces colonised the peninsula until the allied victory in 1945.

Since throwing off its colonial shackles and breaking with the north in 1948, it has proved one of the world's industrial wonders, transforming itself from a war-torn wasteland into the world's eleventh largest economy.

Now the wheel of fortune has turned again for South Korea. Spirits were high two years ago when it was admitted into the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, but they crashed last year amid a financial crisis that nearly forced the nation to default on a mountain of foreign debt.

With no foreign exchange reserves worth mentioning and a plummeting currency, Korea last November became the fourth Asian nation in 11 months to go cap-in-hand to the International Monetary Fund for rescue loans.

The fact that the \$58.35 billion (£35.25 billion) loan package was the largest ever delivered by the IMF spoke volumes for the depth of the country's problems.

In return for the credit lifeline, South Korea has had to embrace a series of economic reforms, including the opening up of its financial markets and corporate sector to foreign investment and competition.

Now a new Government is inviting foreign investment into the traditionally shuttered economy. President Kim Dae Jung is the prime mover



Economy drive: Seoul is fighting back after being forced to go cap-in-hand to the IMF for £35.25 billion loan package, the largest ever delivered

# Braced for an upturn on wheel of fortune

behind this bid to change the national mentality. It has been four months since the financial crisis saw South Korea go within a whisker of default on \$153 billion (£92 billion) in foreign debt. The Government seems to grasp the enormity of this

situation, and early signs are encouraging. South Korea's currency, the won, has shown signs of stabilising at around W1,350 to the dollar, and recently the Government managed to reschedule almost \$24 billion in foreign debt.

Since the liberalisation of the stock and bond markets and the go-ahead for mergers and acquisitions, foreign investors are seen as the linchpins of a successful recovery. The crucial factor militating against a flood of foreign investment is the debt load of the sprawling family-run corporations, the *chaebol*, which routinely register debt-to-equity ratios of 400 per cent.

The *chaebol*, whose reckless borrowing has laid them open to much of the blame for last December's financial crisis, are trying to reduce their reliance on debt financing. There are still sceptics who predict another foreign debt crisis, despite last month's successful debt rescheduling. According to a recent report by SBC Warburg Dillon Read, South Korea's conglomerates have nearly \$80 billion of foreign debt coming due this year.

Despite its headlong rush to democracy and its sophisticated industrial sector, the country is still largely suspicious of foreign influence. Only last month, teachers waged an unofficial campaign against the blockbuster movie *Titanic*, urging pupils to shun the film and telling them that spending money to see it was akin to throwing precious foreign exchange out of the country.

The President's challenge is to convince Koreans the pain of the "IMF-era" is a necessary antidote to the excesses of the recent past. It won't be easy, as the worsening recession is expected to drive average annual income down from \$10,540 to \$6,600.

Faced with an unprecedented level of unemployment, the President is taking steps to provide an adequate social welfare net while urging the *chaebol* not to dismiss workers. With the jobless rate at a 14-year high, he has announced that he will throw open the doors to foreign investment by dropping re-

strictions on foreign ownership of property. Hostile takeovers of South Korean companies will be allowed from this month, and foreign corporations have already expressed interest in some of the nation's struggling banks.

With imports falling dramatically, the country's current account deficit has dwindled — a hopeful sign as Seoul's game plan is to use the weakened currency to export its way out of the slump. Some of the *chaebol*, especially the giant Daewoo, are especially well-placed to do this as they have established production facilities all around the world. But the situation on the home front will remain dire until these reforms take hold. Already, the homeless and unemployed are gathering in unprecedented numbers around the capital city's central railway station.

At least South Koreans can take some solace in the fact that in their President they

have a leader who has given every indication he is prepared to take the decisions needed to rebuild the economy. He is helped by the fact that it is in nobody's interest to let South Korea fall. Its border with the belligerent North Korea is the most tense in the world, a flashpoint that could explode if the North senses an economic collapse gathering steam in the South.

The South is a significant trading partner for America, which has 37,000 troops stationed on the peninsula, and increasingly for China, which risked a split with its ally North Korea to establish diplomatic relations with the south in the early Nineties.

Even without a working majority in the National Assembly, the President, 74, has put aside doubt about his age to present a positive face to a largely sceptical world. This President listens, and he wants to lead actively," says Professor Lho Kyung Soo, a political scientist at Seoul National University. "The circumstances are terrible, but his intellect and political capabilities are encouraging factors."

Foreign investors are seen as the linchpin of recovery

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"Transparency is still a new concept for the *chaebol*. I don't think they really know how to appease foreign investors."

An encouraging sign is the growing campaign for shareholder rights, which have been largely ignored in South Korea. At a recent meeting of Samsung Electronics shareholders, managers were confronted by bold shareholders unhappy with part of the company's corporate strategy.

"This was the first time that a company of this stature was subjected to questioning from the floor," says Mr Morris. "Usually the financial report is presented, the management voted in instantly and the meeting adjourned, all in about 20 minutes. The new Government aims to bolster the rights of smaller shareholders in terms of obliging managers to consult shareholders before big decisions."

The *chaebol* are confronting their astronomical debt levels and most aim to reduce debt ratios to less than 200 per cent — closer to levels common in the West. But while agreeing on the need for transparency, they say they cannot introduce all the measures demanded by the IMF by 2000. So while the *chaebol* are sounding as though they are being quite co-operative, in practice the big conglomerates are focusing on exports to ensure that they emerge from the current recession in good shape.

lot of talk but no transactions," says Hank Morris, a securities analyst in Seoul. The *chaebol* realise they must slim down and adopt modern consolidated accounting to survive and impress foreign investors. "The general direction of reform seems to be right, but the *chaebol* aren't moving quickly enough," says Peter Kim, an analyst with James Capel HSBC.

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Technology Driven, Customer Led

## Family cabals in decline

SOUTH Korea's sprawling conglomerates, for years the engines of its meteoric economic growth, have survived the country's latest financial crisis, but are being forced to change the way they do business, Jennifer Veale writes.

The nation's top 30 conglomerates, or *chaebol*, are being asked to unravel their byzantine structures to provide investors with more openness in the wake of a financial crisis late last year that brought it close to default on \$153 billion (£92 billion) in foreign debt.

The *chaebol* grew out of postwar South Korea's desire to raise its standard of living and take its place among the world's industrial powerhouses. They are predominantly family-run, and there is usually no holding company. The biggest — Daewoo, Hyundai, Samsung — all had humble beginnings but now are world-class producers of a vast range of products.

But last year the *chaebol* ran into trouble as bank debt and depressed world prices took their toll. Profits for all but a couple of the elite conglomerates fell off, mirroring the problems the economy was experiencing and highlighting the need for drastic reform.

Improvement has come courtesy of the International Monetary Fund, which delivered \$58 billion in rescue loans but demanded the corporate sector reduce its debt-to-equity ratios, bolster

shareholders' rights, introduce transparency to account books, and slim down operations to core businesses.

The top conglomerates have debt ratios of at least 400 per cent, the result of a lending spree to fund ambitious expansion plans. They have grown so large that the two biggest, Hyundai and Samsung, each generate more turnover than many small nations. Debt-financing has proven a hard habit to break — last year bank loans to the top ten *chaebol* rose by 42 per cent.

Easy credit and a closed domestic market have enabled the *chaebol* to dominate the corporate landscape for decades. Much of the debt was accrued by healthy subsidiaries guaranteeing bank loans to weaker affiliates — a practice that secured more credit, but left affiliates and banks heavily exposed.

President Kim Dae Jung has made *chaebol* reform a cornerstone of his Redgeing administration, as they are by far the biggest employers and hold the bulk of corpo-

rate debt. He has repeatedly assailed the powerful *chaebol* chiefs for a lack of accountability. The President, who has never been close to the *chaebol* elite, has told them to swap unwanted business lines with other *chaebol* to pare down their empires to core businesses.

He calls these swaps "big deals", reflecting the importance of slimming down the many-headed *chaebol*. Although none has yet taken place, there are some in the pipeline; the auto giant Hyundai has promised to swap a business line if it takes over Kia Motors.

"There could be more in the works, so far there's been a lot of talk but no transactions," says Hank Morris, a securities analyst in Seoul.

The *chaebol* realise they must slim down and adopt modern consolidated accounting to survive and impress foreign investors. "The general direction of reform seems to be right, but the *chaebol* aren't moving quickly enough," says Peter Kim, an analyst with James Capel HSBC.

### INDUSTRY



The IMF lends its name to a sale

The *chaebol* realise that they must open up



# Brave reformer who beat the death squads

## Robert Whyman meets the new President who faces the future with hope

A booklet published by South Korea's Information Ministry calls President Kim Dae Jung an "inspiring" leader blessed with "uncommon courage and conviction".

Once, this same ministry produced hagiographies of a series of authoritarian rulers who held the nation in an iron grip. But that in the past and it is impossible to argue with the description of the President.

South Korea's new leader lived years of prison, at least to assassination attempts, and forced exile overseas. His title to restore democracy, of which Korea had had only the barest taste, lasted nearly three decades.

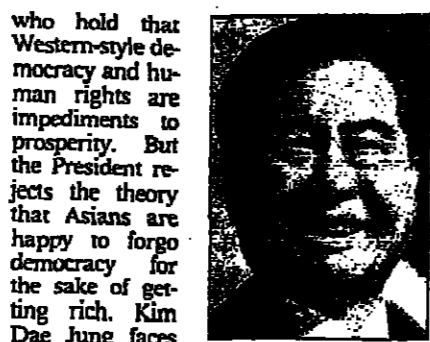
The nation truly owes him a debt of gratitude for his struggle on behalf of democracy and human rights," says the official English language profile of him. For once, the fiery in a government hand-ouls well-deserved.

Kim Dae Jung took office in February, inheriting a financial crisis which has shaken the confidence of a people accustomed to economic success. The new President has vowed to bring about a "second economic miracle". But before that he must nurse the nation through the pain of austerity and find a way to avert the prescriptions of the IMF palatable to the masses.

He has assumed the reins of power at an inauspicious moment. But he says he will not be deterred from putting into practice his long-held belief that economic progress and democracy must go together.

"In the past, the leaders and people considered prosperity as the most important goal, while democracy and human rights were sacrificed," the President said in a recent interview. On taking office, he pledged to demonstrate that these goals are compatible.

Or may be sure that not everyone wishes him success. Asia has more than its fair share of authoritarian rulers



The President, Kim Dae Jung

**'His long journey from prison to President has been remarkable'**

who hold that Western-style democracy and human rights are impediments to prosperity. But the President rejects the theory that Asians are happy to forgo democracy for the sake of getting rich. Kim Dae Jung faces other tough challenges. He has emphasised reconciliation with North Korea, and is laying the groundwork for talks.

During his years in the wilderness, Kim Dae Jung was reviled by South Korea's military leaders. Intelligence agencies missed no chance to brand him a "pro-socialist radical". That is why the new President is taking care to balance his overtures to Pyongyang with the customary rhetoric about maintaining vigilance, and strong defences, against the North.

A few miles north of Seoul, North Korea's armies glare menacingly over the Demilitarised Zone. Incursions and gunfights across the border serve as a constant reminder that the fragile truce which ended the Korean War is no lasting guarantee of peace.

The Cold War confrontation between the two Koreas gave the military strongmen who ruled the South a plausible pretext to strangle political dissent.

President Park Chung Hee, and his successor, Chun Doo Hwan, cited the "threat from the North" to justify the persecution of their critics. Few suffered as much as Kim Dae Jung, who belongs in the political centre and is staunchly pro-American. But govern-

ment propaganda painted him as a traitor who supported North Korea. And there is no doubt the Information Ministry's slanders shaped popular perceptions of the opposition leader. South Koreans, however much they disliked living under dictatorship, accepted that the threat from the North was real, and that civil liberties had to be sacrificed for the cause of national security.

Hounded by the military strongmen, Kim Dae Jung argued tenaciously that a stable democratic system offered the best guarantee of securing the South against a communist takeover. But his was a lone voice, drowned out by state propaganda, or silenced by the secret police apparatus of the Korean Central Intelligence Agency.

The President, born to a poor farming family in 1925, when South Korea was under Japanese rule, won a National Assembly seat in May, 1961. Just three days later, an obscure army general, Park Chung Hee, staged a military coup and overthrew the popularly supported Government.

Kim Dae Jung was first perceived as a threat in the 1971 election, when he challenged President Park's iron rule, and lost by a slim margin. In the course of the campaign, an army truck careened across a road, smashing into Kim Dae Jung's car, causing injuries from which he still limps today.

So worried was President Park by Kim Dae Jung's appeal that he rammed

through a new Constitution in 1972 to abolish popular elections. And in the summer of 1973, a more determined attempt was made to silence him. A hit squad was dispatched to Tokyo, where he was organising Koreans committed to democratic government in the South.

It was here that I first met Kim Dae Jung, and was struck by his conviction that democracy in South Korea would be achieved peacefully one day, without resort to revolution. Kim Dae Jung confided that he was being pursued by President Park's hired killers, and was trying to throw them off his tracks. A fortnight later, he was spirited away from a Tokyo hotel.

Five days elapsed before he was dumped, dazed and bruised, but miraculously still alive, in a street in Seoul. His abductors had planned to hurl him into the sea, and he was only saved at the eleventh hour by the intervention of the American Government.

Evidence pointed to the involvement of the Korean Embassy in Tokyo, but the Japanese politicians were more concerned with nurturing commercial relations with South Korea than solving a crime.

It was the US, again, which came to Kim Dae Jung's rescue towards the end of 1980 when he was in a Seoul prison, facing execution. Details of how President-elect Ronald Reagan applied pressure on the military regime of General Chun Doo Hwan to spare him emerged only recently.

In 1980 no one expected that Kim Dae Jung would one day sit at the pinnacle of power in South Korea. His journey from prison to the presidential palace has been every bit as remarkable as that of Nelson Mandela. When the President an ardent Anglophile, visits London, he deserves the longest red carpet that Britain has to offer.



Buddhist monks perform in Seoul, where traditional mores underpin newly acquired Western values

AT first glimpse, South Korea looks like a modern Western society complete with skyscrapers, flashy vehicles, chic cafes and the latest movies. But the pull of traditional culture is strong, leaving many Koreans with a foot in both camps.

South Korea's rapid economic development is unprecedented in world history. In only four decades it has risen from the ashes of the Korean War to become an affluent society with a sophisticated industrial base and a highly educated population. Korean companies such as Samsung, Hyundai and Daewoo are well known and are increasingly associated with state-of-the-art technology.

But despite its image as a producer of the ultra-high-tech, South Koreans have a love-hate relationship with Western culture. A centuries-old fear of invasion has made many Koreans suspicious of foreigners. But the younger generation is being seduced by the glamour of the West.

"Most Koreans want to behave like Westerners when they are young but as soon as they reach their thirties they become as conservative as their parents," says Han Sun

# Potent mix of old and new

SOCIETY & CULTURE

Hee, 38, an office worker in Seoul.

"They start to get very frustrated when they see their children are more capable of holding a fork than a pair of chopsticks." Their skill is probably developed at the country's countless American fast-food outlets.

Until recently, most Koreans were shut off from the rest of the world. Overseas travel was allowed only ten years ago, shortly before the Seoul Olympic Games, and many older citizens have never left the country.

Nevertheless, the flowering of the economy and the attendant rise in the standard of living has allowed Western culture to filter into South Korea. Young Koreans, given a headstart in English by schooling that lays great stress on being bilingual, are

obsessed with American pop stars and movie idols.

The creeping Westernisation has seen young Korean couples gravitate toward the nuclear rather than the traditional Asian extended family. Increasingly, newlyweds are choosing to live apart from their families in clusters of high-rise apartment blocks.

"Everyone lives in apartments and the kinship system is breaking down in the sense that young people are torn," says Professor Hahn Chai-bong, an American-educated political scientist at Yonsei University in Seoul.

"They feel terrible that they aren't fulfilling their traditional obligations. So during the two traditional annual holidays the country comes to a halt as Koreans go back to their clan to perform ancestral rituals."

This mix of traditional and Western life is evident even during the wedding ceremony, when the bride and groom don a dinner jacket and wedding dress for photographs, and then change into traditional dress for a ceremony honouring the groom's parents. But, Professor Hahn says, many newlywed women are riven with guilt for failing to fulfil their obligations as daughters-in-law, who traditionally become the property of the grooms' parents.

EVEN South Korea's political system is a curious blend of the old and the new. "It's outwardly a Western system, but the way they think is different," says Professor Hahn.

Scuffles in parliament are still a common sight, and policymaking is often driven more by personal allegiance than national good.

Tradition regains its sway during crisis periods. The economic downturn has spawned a virulent campaign against imports that at times has become anti-foreign sentiment.

JENNIFER VEALE

A warm welcome to President Kim, Dae-Jung and the First lady of the Republic of Korea.

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# Peace with the enemy?

South Korea's traditional policy towards its belligerent Communist neighbour, North Korea, is neatly encapsulated in a famous sculpture at Seoul's monolithic Korean War Memorial.

The statue depicts an embrace by two brothers who meet while fighting on opposite sides during the 1950-53 Korean War. But the South Korean is disproportionately larger than his Communist younger brother, who reaches for him as a child would his mother.

While the scene reflects the desire of most Koreans for peaceful unification, it also depicts a certain inflexibility in South Korea's official stance, before the inauguration of President Kim Dae Jung, on the issue of North Korea.

Relations between the neighbours, who are technically still at war as no peace treaty was signed in 1953, deteriorated under the former President, Kim Young Sam, who was distrusted by the North. Plans for a leadership summit between him and North Korea's Kim Jong Il fell through amid accusations that the southern leader had not paid his respects at the death of the Communist regime's founder, Kim Il Sung.

**Jennifer Veale reports on what the North Koreans can expect of the South's new President**

President Kim Dae Jung, who was sworn in on February 25, appears determined to set bilateral relations back on track. One of his first acts was to hold out what amounted to an olive branch. He used his inauguration speech to set the foreign policy tone for his presidency, proposing a leadership summit, an exchange of envoys and new dialogue on the reunification of the peninsula.

He laid particular stress on the 1992 Basic Agreement signed by both sides to pursue peaceful reunification: "I cannot but feel boundless shame before our ancestors, who maintained one unified country for more than 1,300 years," President Kim Dae Jung said.

He unveiled three underlying principles to his North Korea policy: "First, we will never tolerate armed provocation of any kind. Second, we do not have any intention to undermine or absorb North Korea. Third, we will actively pursue reconciliation and cooperation between the South and the North."

**'We do not intend to undermine or absorb North Korea'**

Recent Korean history is strewn with the bones of well-intentioned peace initiatives, some of them hatched under the stewardship of Kim Young Sam. President Kim Dae Jung is a student of history and does not believe his policies will bring about unification within his five-year term.

He is, however, uniquely placed to make real progress, since for more than 30 years he fought political repression in his homeland and was not viewed by the North with the same suspicion it accorded to the South's ultra-conservative political and military elite.

As president, Kim Dae Jung has proved anything but a dove on the Communist issue, but has shown an encouraging flexibility. "He has taken the initiative in dealing with North Korea by proposing summit talks," says Professor Kim Sung Han of the Institute for Foreign Affairs and National Security.

"But right now the two sides are trying to read each other's minds... and they will talk later about whether they should push through with direct contacts." A cautionary note was struck last month when four-way peace talks in Geneva involving the two Koreas, America and China collapsed once again.

The famine tightening its grip on the North is a worrying variable as it may prompt the regime to reach out for assistance or lash out as the economy disintegrates. "The ball is in North Korea's court," Professor Lho Kyung-Soo, a political scientist at Seoul National University, says. "How it responds remains to be seen - it's a highly insecure regime."

"I think the South's policy is still waiting to emerge but President Kim Dae Jung's initial posture is conciliatory. He wants to pursue whatever initiatives he can to engage the North in broader dialogue."



North-South divide: a kindergarten teacher guides her charges past an M1 tank at the War Memorial Museum in Seoul

## Carmakers have become potent force

Ruth Taplin on the motor industry's ambitious plans

South Korean automotive manufacturing continues to be a success story despite the economic restructuring and turmoil that has hit markets.

Daewoo is an ambitious company that plans to make and sell 2.5 million vehicles worldwide by 2000. As Kim Woo Chung, the company's chairman, explains, Daewoo Motor is engaged in a number of joint ventures and calls on the services of numerous consulting engineering firms.

It has a joint venture with General Motors, which supplies Daewoo in Korea with components. Central European countries are used for manufacturing and Poland, in particular, has a growing manufacturing site in Warsaw known as Daewoo FSO.

Two years ago it opened a commercial vehicle plant in Lublin, which now makes a profit. Daewoo sees the region as one with tremendous potential.

Western Europe and the UK in particular are seen as important research and development sites. Daewoo owns the Worthing R&D Centre in West Sussex where it employs 700 British and 100 Korean engineers. They are working on new production style as well as improving technology.

Daewoo concentrates on automobile manufacture, shipbuilding and industrial machines. Yang Jae Shin, the former president of Daewoo Motor, set stringent targets by year and department. A quality target has been established to bring the standard to the level of the Japanese motor giant, Toyota.

The Daewoo strategy of making direct sales to customers, letting them have a car free for a week to see if they like it, giving discounts and providing a complete after-care customer service, proved to be successful.

Daewoo's policy is to ensure quality control through personal customer service and regular reporting back to the Korean headquarters. The emphasis placed on customer service has paid off - Daewoo recently won the Best Warranty and After Sales Award from *What Car* magazine.

Kia Motors is unusual in the Korean automotive sphere - it operates as an independent company rather than as a conglomerate. Because Kia did not have the financial support of a conglomerate, it almost collapsed last year under the weight of the impending economic crisis. However, a government bailout has ensured its long-term survival.

It has a trading company but not a finance group and being a smaller, independent company, it is not constrained by a larger corporation. Kia is continuing to open markets worldwide and is to develop its business in Europe and the United States.

Kia has also made inroads into the UK market after being voted second best for customer satisfaction in a survey in *Motoring World* magazine in March last year.

In 1996 the company filed for about 16,000 industrial patents and utility designs both at home and abroad, continuing to strengthen its overseas patent registrations. In the basic and letting technology sector, Kia developed various alternative fuel cars such as electronic compressed natural gas and methanol cars, and permanent all-wheel-drive and aluminium cars. These are important for developing environmentally sound cars of the future.

Hyundai wants to increase its presence in the UK market and boost its sales here. The company's International Motors Division was franchised to sell in the UK in 1993 and has been selling 19,000 kits, with the Accent the major seller.

Labour costs in Korea have risen and were beginning to mirror their costs in Western Europe. Despite this, Hyundai retained its main manufacturing base in Korea and negotiated with the labour unions to soften the initial labour administration.

Quality is the main issue facing Hyundai automotive - its goal is to reach the level of quality achieved by Japanese car manufacturers. Hyundai employs 6,000 engineers to aid research and design. Most are Korean engineers, many of whom studied in the US and UK as design engineers. Hyundai also works closely with UK consulting engineers.

The company sees its primary strength in product development. Hyundai Motors is investing 5.2 per cent of its total sales revenue in R&D funds; however, this figure will gradually increase to 8 per cent by the 21st century.

Past administrators barred Samsung from carmaking in Korea, but three years ago it formed Samsung Motors and this February launched its first line of car models in Korea. Lee Dae Won, the vice-chairman and chief executive of Samsung Motors, says: "We are serious about producing top-quality cars."

It is believed that Samsung Motors will manufacture 500,000 cars a year by 2000 and that Europe will be the main overseas market. Samsung Motors and Nissan, the Japanese carmaker, signed a technology transfer contract in 1994 to help to start Samsung Motors.

Now that Samsung Motors will most likely build a plant in Europe in the future, it would be surprising if the relationship were not followed through with some possible collaboration at the Nissan plant in Sunderland.

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# It's not the Friel thing

Correct me if I have missed some confessional encounter in the *Irish Journal of Philology*, but Brian Friel has always shirked interviews, preferring to let his plays do the talking. And talk they sometimes have, openly or obliquely, about his own trade. Remember *Translations*, which involved the English suppression of the Irish language? Remember *Faith Healer*, about a peripatetic shaman who some nights produced miracles and other nights banalities? There was a nice metaphor for the erratic, unpredictable power of the dramatist.

But I cannot remember a Friel play that has so directly addressed the worries, confusions, vanities and follies of the writer as *Give Me Your Answer, Do!* It was not a great success in Dublin last year, by some accounts because the author himself unwisely chose to direct it. As capably restaged by Robin Lefevre, and performed by a strong cast, it seems to me well worth bringing to Britain: yet there is still something not-quite-satisfactory about it. It is funny and shrewd and over-obvious and oddly frustrating.

The protagonist is Tom Connolly, a blocked novelist living in growing poverty in a mouldering manse in the Irish outback. Think of an amalgam of a boiled shrimp and Lord Longford, and you have the tuffy, rumpled look that Niall Buggy brings to the role, but scarcely the frazzled, bashful, earnest, angry and entirely excellent performance he proceeds to give. When we meet him he is visiting a hospital, where he spins wild fantasies for his daughter, a terminal headcase who rocks, gapes and hears nothing. Then it's back home to his wife, Geraldine James's Daisy, whom he has left to look after his in-laws, and the young, neurotic (Aineinn Hughes) who may solve his financial woes by buying his archives for some

## Give Me Your Answer, Do! Hampstead

Texan campus. That is what has happened to the successful fellow novelist who now drops by with wife in tow. With Gawn Grainger's Garret Fitzmaurice exuding public bonhomie and private bitchiness — for him, Tom is at best "a major minor writer" — and Sorcha Cusack barely disguising her contempt for a husband she feels has bartered his art for popularity, both the comic and the dramatic temperature increase.

Add John Woodvine as Daisy's father, a dandified palm-court pianist subject to episodes of kleptomania, and Margaret Tyzack as his doughty, retired-doctor wife, and you have a gloriously incongruous cross-section boozily slumped amid the honey-and-green walls of Elizabeth Ascroft's outdoors set.

Yet I found myself asking questions as I chuckled. Doesn't the Fitzmaurices' mutual sniping veer too near caricature? Isn't James's role underwritten? What are we to make of the revelation that, just after learning of his daughter's disability, Tom wrote and suppressed two pornographic novels? How seriously can we take his wife's last-moment declaration that he must reject Texas's gold because it would represent public acceptance and deprive him of the self-doubt necessary to his art?

Friel scholars will doubtless scour the text for cryptic self-revelation and doubtless find it. But my business is the dramatic event. It amuses, it grips, but *Translations* was more intellectually complete. *Dancing at Lughnasa* more moving. Categorise the play as major minor Friel.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



Gawn Grainger and Sorcha Cusack in Brian Friel's "funny and shrewd and over-obvious and oddly frustrating" play

# Worth repeating

SCOTT is announcing the start of *Flesh*: "And all you will witness tonight, boys and babes, will be live, live, live: there are no reruns, this is the real thing." This is a generation that has grown up on reruns, that dances to pre-recorded music, that watches pre-recorded shows on TV, that wears clothes pre-selected to some high street fashion template, that buys and dances in a frenzy for a vain chance of encountering the real thing. To frustrated consumers of pre-packaged culture, Scott's offer sounds pretty special.

Swansea-based Frantic Assembly is pretty special, but the offer of the real thing is by no means as simple as it sounds. The company's *Generation Trilogy: Klub, Flesh and Zero* looks and sounds stunning. The music is high-energy club fodder, the dancing is breathtaking, the chat is upfront and personal.

Frantic's genius is that it can create an illusion of absolute honesty. Only through seeing parts of the trilogy together does any concept of characterisation become apparent, and even then it feels rather like one has exposed a lie than been party to acts of theatre. In

## The Generation Trilogy BAC, SW11

*Flesh*, Calt gives a straight, unself-pitying account of how she fell into prostitution to pay her way through drama school; in *Zero* she discusses living with her mum and her six-year-old daughter — the stories do not tally, but the illusion is hard to let go of.

In apparently offering up something very personal, the company has managed to tap into specific, but universal themes. By being party to their confessions and self-exploration, the audience is a part of the show.

*The Generation Trilogy* is a study of capitalism that asks how much of yourself you will use to get what you want. This pitches it directly against Mark Ravenhill's *Shopping*, but while he creates a rather excluding spectacle of his characters' struggle, Frantic brings the audience into the drama with them, so that we share in their sense of hope and frustration.

HETTIE JUDAH

# Lost in space

THERE is an enormous turtle swimming through outer space with a city on its back. The city's mighty walls, pitted with gargoyles and doorways, revolve. Here fallen stars such as Paul Darrow, who have failed to make much more of their terrestrial careers on sci-fi programmes like *Blake's Seven* find themselves among hard-drinking dwarfs, thieves, an orange-utan librarian, corrupt priests and Yorkshiresmen dressed as monks.

In charge of the city's police force, Darrow's Captain Vimes stalks the streets like a disgruntled Bogart. The villain and ambitious director of this doomed satellite, Peter Benedict, is burning his way to power with the help of a dragon.

And you think Peter Mandelson is out of touch? Ever get the feeling that you've never quite connected with sci-fi? Not having read any of Terry Pratchett's cult *Discworld* novels, I found swaths of in-jokes ghosting past me.

The spectacle is propelled by magnificent cartoon scenery rather than by anything as fundamental as a plot. Apart

## Guarded Guarded! Hackney Empire

from Iain Stirling's ginger-haired, 6ft 6in dwarf, Lance Constable Carrot, nobody seems to care much whom Peter Yapp's giant Grim Reaper steals away.

But if the narrative thread is appalling, the saving grace of Geoffrey Cush's adaptation is a naïf sense of humour.

Looking for ways to rid the city of the dragon (a large pair of red eyes), Vimes gets involved with Roz McCutcheon's stout, upper-crust Lady Ramkin, who breeds small dragons. "There's nothing more exhilarating than seeing a couple of dragons copulate in the air like buzz-saws," she says.

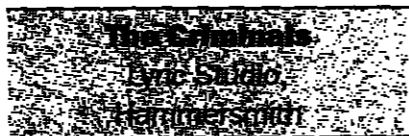
There are some sublime moments of comic melodrama when Lady Ramkin is threatened with imprisonment by the dark forces. "Do you feel lucky?" asks Vimes, pointing a small but volatile rubber dragon at a henchman. But these moments, alas, are too few to save the Universe.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

# Painful home truths from Cuba

THE Cuban dramatist José Triana wrote this fierce, intricate piece in 1964, five years after Castro ousted Batista, and though at first it won him acclaim and awards, it eventually got him into trouble and sent him into exile. *Benedict Nightingale* writes. His evocation of a crazed, chaotic house in which the children indulge in endless fantasies of murdering the cruel parents they paradoxically love, and maybe actually do so, presumably came to seem as much about the current Father of the Nation as the old, discredited one.

But even in London the audience for Latin American drama about Latin American problems cannot be large, so there needs to be some other reason for Ian Brown's revival of the play than its political ramifications. And, thanks to BackChat Theatre's robust acting, that is not difficult to discern. Here, the play involves what it seems to involve. The names of the three grown-up children may be Hispanic — Lalo, Beba, Cusa — but they are trapped, emotionally and probably physically, in the sort of family



that obsesses, crushes, and turns people into zombies, killers or schizophrenics. You do not find such households only in Cuba.

Triana, who now lives in Paris, is clearly indebted to the Genet of *The Maids*, and maybe to the R.D. Laing of *The Divided Self* as well. From the start it is evident that Peter Sullivan's callow, raging Lalo, who claims his parents' mutilated bodies are rotting just outside the long, thin corridor where the play is set, is playing life-games with his sisters, Joanna Foster's Beba and Miranda Foster's Cusa. They spend, so long a time arguing about the need to have rooms, furniture and themselves, and wear, and more interestingly, start to act out exemplary scenes from family life. This is, I suppose, standard domestic

disaster stuff, but with the two Fosters displaying particular versatility and power, it bangs pretty strongly round the Lyric Studio. Dad contemptuously bullies and beats Lalo. Mum is bitter and treacherous. Both keep emphasising how much they have sacrificed for children they never wanted. All three performers cross genders and swap roles as they move on to the investigation and trial they imagine following the murder. And in the courtroom they reincarnate their parents again, and show what effect a shallow, poverty-dogged marriage had upon them.

This does not amount to a lot more than suggesting how ordinary lovelessness and everyday resentments grew into serious hatred; but, again, the company's execution is more impressive than the author's conception. A boy and his two sisters are trying to understand and show why they themselves ended up victims — and managing to admit that, yes, they care for the poor, mangled monsters who created and abused them. It's a denouement I found worth the wait.

## MUSIC THEATRE: Great Sondheim in London; a sad first in Manchester

### Sharp as a razor

#### Sweeney Todd Queen Elizabeth Hall

THERE'S no place like London, sings Sweeney Todd sardonically in Sondheim's musical thriller about the Demon Barber of Fleet Street. So perhaps it was fitting that the piece should visit the Queen Elizabeth Hall both as a postscript to Opera North's tour, and as part of the exploration of 1970s music in the Towards the Millennium series. It was good in this hypaoc performance to be reminded that alongside the many bleak works of that decade there were some at once deadly serious and funny.

Sondheim's most ambitious score is great music-theatre, a bit of opera, a bit of musical, a bit of neither. *Sweeney Todd* is certainly as powerful as any opera written during the 1970s, even if in this full version played by Opera North it has its longeurs. While the arguments continue over whether it is best sung by opera or showbiz voices, Op-

era North's casting is a canny mix with the emphasis, unsurprisingly, on the operatic side.

Not that there was a shortage of drama. With his cast but not chorus wearing Kevin Knight's Victorian costumes, David McVicar moved the characters around effectively. When the show was new in Leeds ten weeks ago, Rodney Milnes reported that it was all a little too serious, but on Monday the performers were playing up all the macabre humour. James Holman's conducting, too, must have lightened and tightened up here he got everything out of the score with flexibility and drive.

A dark-voiced Steven Page was splendidly incisive in the title role, and developed his tragic, vengeance-seeking figure movingly. Heading the non-operatic contingent, Beverley Klein offered sharp characterisation as a hard-bitten Mrs Lovett. Daniel Broad was fine but not quite upbeat enough as the musical-comedy sailor Anthony. Lucy Scauer's bright Johanna, Gillian Kirkpatrick's Beggar Woman, Malcolm Rivers's Judge and Adrian Thompson's Pirelli also stood out, but everyone delivered Sondheim's brilliant lyrics with outstanding clarity.

JOHN ALLISON

### Three's a cloud

#### RNCM Triple Bill Manchester

IF IT is the function of a conservatoire to prepare its students for all aspects of professional life, the Royal Northern College of Music is only doing its job. It would have to warn the public that its latest Music Theatre Season might be an exercise in preparing for the worst — in giving a competent bass a lesson in singing opposite a caricature of a tenor, in training a cast to survive an embarrassing production, and in giving musicians experience of ignoring the inferior quality of the material and just getting on with it.

The agony of taking part in the first performance of *The Bridge* can only have been aggravated by the knowledge that the composer had been awarded the £10,000 Stephen Oliver Prize for Contemporary Opera. How, they must have asked themselves as they devoted their energies to Tim Benjamin's fifth-form score

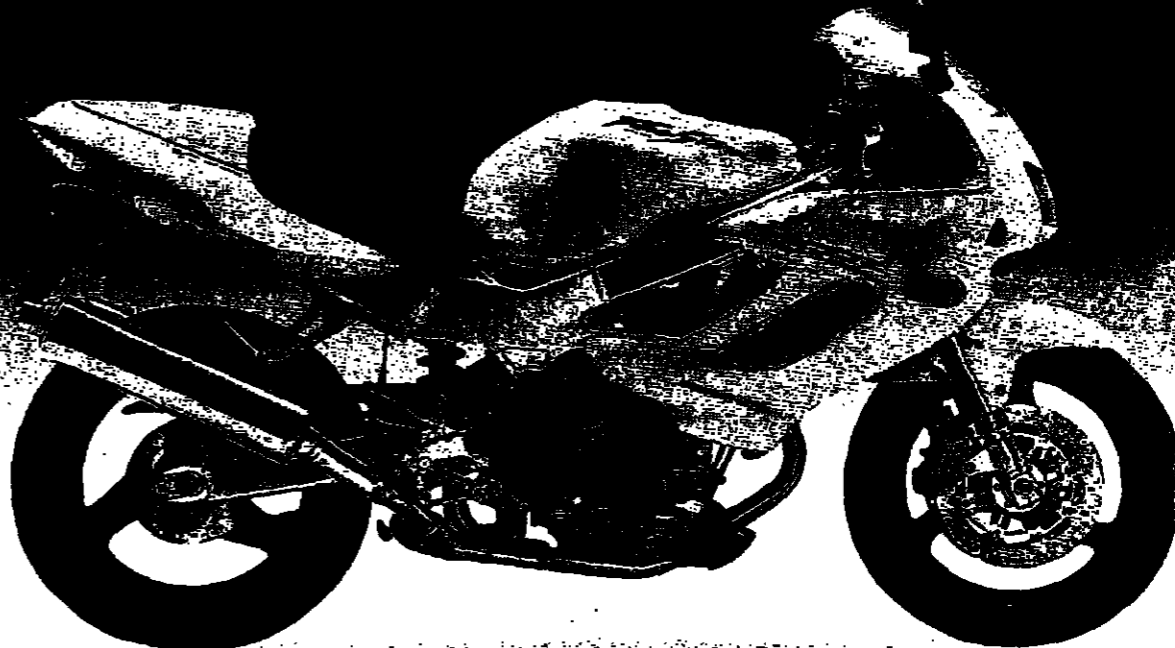
and David Edgar's sixth-form libretto, could that have happened? And how can the International Society for Contemporary Music face up to presenting a repeat performance of this same work in Manchester next month? The ISCM should at least be able to ensure that the companion to *The Bridge*, Stephen Oliver's *Exposition of a Picture*, is adequately cast. The college had problems here, since neither of the two singers involved corresponded with the names in the programme. Even so, if they had time to learn the words, they should also have been able to make them audible and to follow at least an approximation of the admittedly difficult vocal line.

The central item in the RNCM programme is *Busqueda*. James MacMillan's expression of solidarity with the Mothers of the Disappeared. Since it is clearly more a concert piece than a theatre piece, Jennifer Hamilton would have been well advised to restrict movement to a minimum. Still, one could switch off the visuals and concentrate on words well spoken by Sarah Cox and most effectively integrated with the score under the direction of Clark Rundell.

GERALD LARNER

AN EXCLUSIVE PRIZE DRAW THE TIMES

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THERE IS STILL A CHANCE TO WIN A TOYOTA — SEE PAGE 37

CHANGING TIMES

appointed music director Philharmonia Orchestra

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FOOTBALL

Saunders aims to gain revenge by felling Forest

By RICHARD HOBSON

DEAN SAUNDERS described his time with Nottingham Forest as the most frustrating of his career...

"They are both very important games for different reasons, but there is no point having a good Cup run and then letting things slip in the league..."

Sheffield occupy sixth place, three points ahead of Birmingham City, having played three games fewer...



Saunders rejuvenated

Saunders marked his return to the Sheffield side after a month out with a hamstring problem by scoring the winning goal against Port Vale last Saturday...

Villa's change of mind puts Palace at risk

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

ASTON Villa have expressed a late interest in competing in the InterToto Cup this summer...

Glenn Hoddle has not received any offers to return to club management and remains committed to winning the World Cup for England...

When the Premier League asked for volunteers to enter the much-maligned tournament, which can lead to entry into the UEFA Cup...

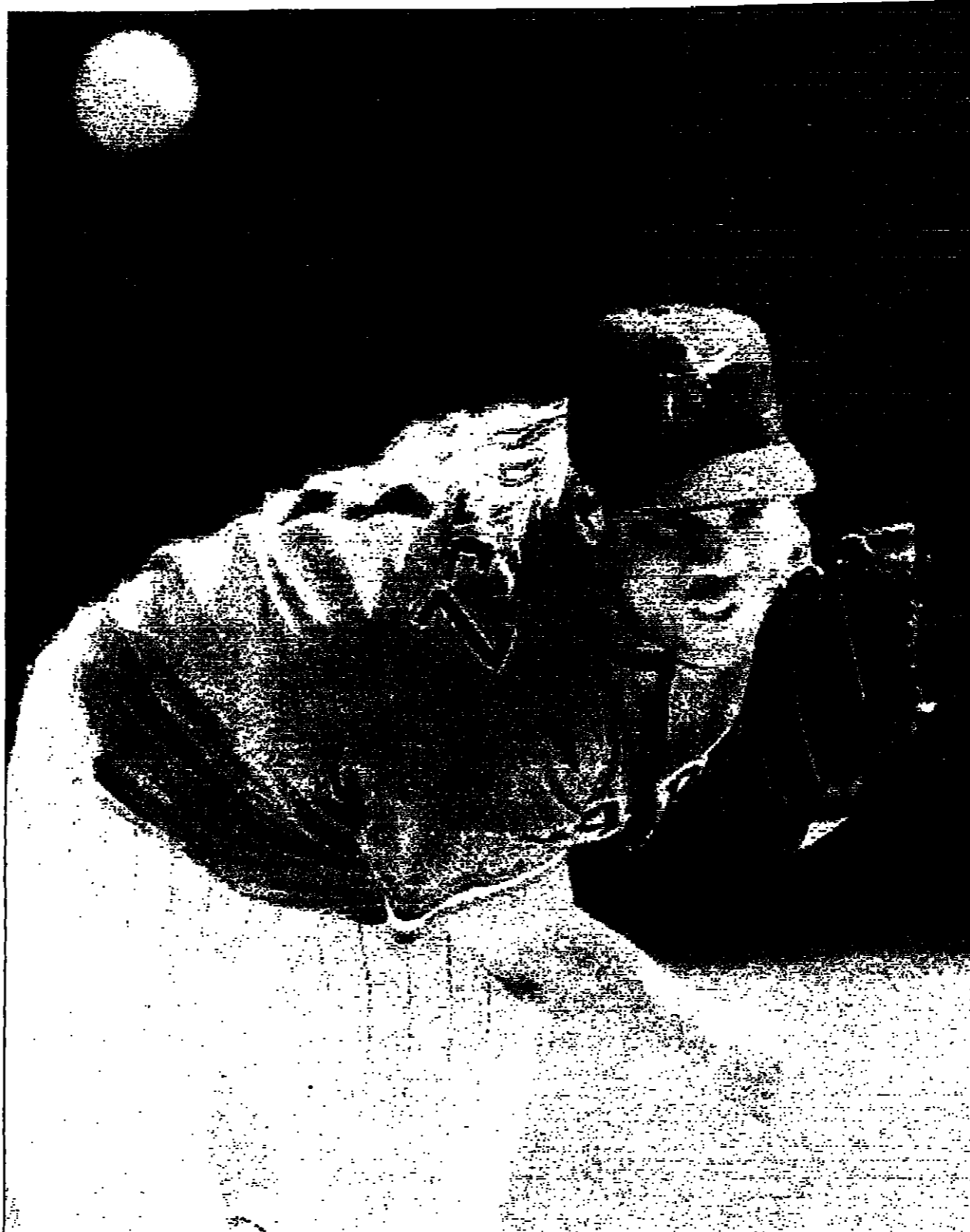
Dennis Roach said that, contrary to reports, there had been no contact between the England coach and AS Monaco...

final, against Arsenal, to consider.

Thompson's biggest doubt surrounds Alan Kelly, the Ireland goalkeeper, who saved three penalties in the shoot-out against Coventry City...

There is a strange pessimism within Nottingham over their prospects. Even those supporters who believe they will go up speak darkly of immediate relegation...

Wolves are still awaiting international clearance for David Connolly, the Ireland striker signed from Feyenoord last week...



Hernandez, the Marlins pitcher, throws to the plate in a spring training game against Baltimore in Viera, Florida

Florida pay dearly for sales

Keith Blackmore finds the World Series champions fearing the worst

When the Florida Marlins hold their World Series ring presentation ceremony before the game with the Milwaukee Brewers on April 5, it will be a strange occasion...

gory should fit neatly into the mythology of the sport. Five years ago the club did not even exist, while the final game of the series against Cleveland embodied most of baseball's enduring beauties...

When Wayne Huizenga, the Blockbuster video mogul, a brash and abrasive Floridian, bought the franchise, he was not interested only in giving baseball a home in the booming city of Miami...

about selling the team, slicing more than \$30 million, almost half, from the payroll. Of the glittering stars of October, only Livan Hernandez, the brilliant young Cuban pitcher, remains.

PREDICTED FINISHES

National League: East division: Atlanta Braves; Central: St Louis Cardinals; West: Los Angeles Dodgers...

ICE SKATING

Eldredge eyes home gold

FROM ANGELA COURT IN MINNEAPOLIS

THE world figure skating championships began at the Target Centre here yesterday, with many new names likely to win medals.

Olympic ice dance champions, have retired from eligible competition. However, the absence of Olympic medal-winners at world championships is not unusual because of the timing of the two events...

end his eligible career on a high note before a supportive home crowd. His main challengers will be the Russian teenagers, Alexei Yagudin and Evgeni Plushenko...

NEW ITF PLAYER VALUATIONS

Table with columns: REVALUED UP, REVALUED DOWN, and £. Lists player names and their corresponding values.

FOR THE RECORD

Table with columns: ATHLETICS, BASKETBALL, BOWLS, RACKETS, SAILING, TENNIS, SPEEDWAY. Lists various sports records and events.

CRICKET

Reeve to attempt a limited return

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

DERMOT REEVE is coming out of retirement to play for Somerset in one-day matches this summer...

"I've lost the best part of a stone in weight and feel great," he said. "As things stand, I'm definitely going to give it a go and see if I'm worth a place in the side..."

Reeve's second season with Somerset is going to be an important one, for the side failed to live up to expectations last summer. He said he has learnt a lot about his players and is in buoyant mood for the new campaign...

Get your money on in all competitions," Reeve, who led Warwickshire to six trophies in three seasons as captain, said yesterday. "The boys look in great shape and I really fancy us to get our hands on some silverware..."

Lancashire, who are touring South Africa, were unable to capitalise on the promising Andy Flintoff's innings of 99 yesterday and fell 17 short of the 315 runs that they needed to beat Emerging Boland, finishing on 298 for nine.

England have improved their world standing despite the Test series defeat in the West Indies. South Africa's win over Sri Lanka on Sunday moved England up one place from ninth to joint-sixth of the nine Test-playing countries in the Wisden world championship.

Australia still hold a huge lead over all their rivals despite the failure in India. Two points are awarded for winning a series, or one-off Test, and one for drawing.

SPORT IN BRIEF

RUGBY LEAGUE: Paul Loughlin and Jeff Wittenberg, two members of the Bradford Bulls' championship-winning side last year, will play for Huddersfield Giants against their former club in the opening match of the JJB Super League season at the McAlpine Stadium on Friday (Christopher Irvine writes).

made two changes in their A squad for the match against France at Bridgend on Friday. Martyn Williams, the flanker, has a calf muscle injury and will be replaced by Ian Boobyer, of Neath. Dean Thomas, of Swansea, has been called up as a replacement. Paul Young, of Cardiff, replaces the injured Barry Williams as reserve hooker.



BOXING

Warren to fight on in dispute with King

By JOHN GOODBODY

FRANK WARREN yesterday vowed to continue his legal tussle against his former partner, Don King, although the costs could reach £2 million if the British promoter loses the case.

In an acrimonious and complicated series of disputes, Warren is being publicly supported by some of Britain's leading boxers, including Naseem Hamed, Richie Woodhall, Herbie Hide and Joe Calzaghe. The future of many boxers is inextricably linked with the outcome of the court battles.

Warren's lawyers have been in touch "for some time" with the legal representatives of Mike Tyson, who has fallen out with King. The former world heavyweight champion is suing the American promoter, claiming that he owes him about £18 million.

Asked yesterday if he would be looking after Tyson in future, Warren replied: "Stranger things have happened. Who knows?" Tyson, who refereed a professional wrestling match in Boston on Sunday, is under an indefinite ban from boxing for chewing Evander Holyfield's ear.

Warren insisted yesterday that he was "not a quitter, not a loser". Although Warren lost the first round in the High Court last Friday, there are many other legal rounds this year, both in Britain and the United States, before an outright winner can be declared.

Last Friday Mr Justice Lightman ruled that there was an agreement between the rivals that the top British boxers should be under joint promotion. He said that Warren was "in breach of the duties he owed Don King Productions Inc [DKP]".

The judge ruled that the promotional profits of all European boxers signed by Warren before December 5, 1997 have to be shared with King unless Warren buys out the contract.

However, the reverse also applies, with King obliged to share the profits made from any European boxer under his promotional banner. These include Henry Akinwande, who is due to fight Holyfield for the World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation versions of the world heavyweight title on June 6.

Mr Justice Lightman ruled that, under their contract, Warren had breached his obligations to King when he had signed a deal, reputed to be worth £7.3 million, with Home Box Office (HBO) for the US television rights of six of Hamed's contests.

The first of these was Hamed's successful title defence against Kevin Kelley last December. Bouts promoted by King in the United States are screened by HBO's rival, the Showtime organisation.

A statement by King after the decision last Friday immediately brought a writ for libel from Warren's solicitors. Later this month, Warren will claim in court that King did not fulfil his part of the deal to get British boxers on pay-per-view television in the US. The lawyers for Sports Network, Europe, Warren's company, will argue that it was therefore forced to go to HBO and they will also claim that the company did not receive financial information from King about the European boxers, as it was entitled to do.

If Warren wins this case, then he believes it will supersede the judgment last Friday, against which Warren is appealing.

Possibly the most significant of the legal encounters will be the one later this summer, when Warren will dispute that there is a three-year extension to their contract. King claims that there is a handwritten amendment. Warren alleges that the amendment is a forgery.



Entwistle, of City of Ely, sends a bowl down the rink during his quarter-final match

Wickham in good spirits

JOHN WICKHAM, who will skip his Teignbridge club colleagues, Roy Johnson and Danny Denton, in the national indoor triples final at Melton Mowbray today, has suffered from trouble with his knee since he had an accident when he was four.

Although it did not stop him playing football for Watford reserves and going on to play for England at bowls, indoors and out, the condition has worsened this season and he plans to have an operation, during which his leg will be broken below the knee.

A recent visit to a faith healer has, Wickham said, helped a great deal and sent him to Melton Mowbray in good spirits, but he will be feeling even better after winning four games in two days on his way to the final.

By DAVID RHYS JONES and thought I had no chance of playing in the finals," he said yesterday. "I could never have managed two games in a day. It was unbelievable. I'm not a religious man, but the pain disappeared almost immediately."

Wickham's best achievement was winning the national outdoor singles title in 1992, but this is his third successive year in the national championships and the seventh time that he has qualified for the triples event. Wickham and Johnson lost in the final in 1993.

Wickham and his second man, Denton, were in trouble last month when they said they would not play for Teignbridge in the Denny Cup finals. They will be joining the Torquay United club next year, when they hope to team up with John Evans in the triples.

Beating three internationals from Cumbria in their opening match, Teignbridge dashed the hopes of the holders, Bentham, skipped by Tony Allcock, in the second round, then beat Mote Park 24-20, after leading 19-7 at ten ends.

In the semi-finals, Teignbridge were playing Wymondham Dell, of Norfolk, who were without John Ottaway, their leading player, and had done well to get so far in the tournament. The Devonians were slow to start but took control in the second half, winning 17-13.

Alternative guide to motor racing in 1998

Here it is: this column's cut-and-keep guide to the rest of the Formula One season. Here is what to do if you find yourself in town with a good chance of going to watch the motor racing.

SIMON BARNES



Midweek View

April 12: Buenos Aires: Penguins. Visit Punta Tombo on the Valdez peninsula for a colony of Magellanic penguins. A good chance to reread Borges and compare Formula One with his *Universal History of Infamy*. Then strike off for the elephant seal colonies.

April 26: San Marino: It is hard to have an unpleasant time in Italy unless you insist on going to a grand prix. Bologna is the nearest town and a jolly spot, but having gone so far, you might as well hack over to Venice. Don't miss the Carpaccios at the Scuola di San Giorgio and remember that the Giudiccia is the world's finest drinking slab.

May 10: Barcelona: "What do you think of that, Gary?" Des asked the boy Lineker after the opening ceremony at the 1992 Olympic Games. "Well, Des - what you expect from the city that gave us Dali, Miró and Gaudí?" Visit Gaudí's loony Sagrada Família church, with its spire of spires that Burgess called "almost excellent baguettes"; drink on Las Ramblas and admire the almost excellent passers-by. Or go to the Pyrenees for the lammerger.

May 24: Monaco: A horrible spot. Move along the coast to the Camargue and ride horses. Wonderful place for marsh harriers and flamingos. The farther France gets from Paris the better it gets, so this is not a bad place for a weekend.

June 7: Montreal: One of only two towns in North America in which you can be a flâneur and a boulevardier. Also once of the few franco-ophone cities where no one criticises your grammar. So flâne, and enjoy the pleasures of France without the French. Half a day's drive will bring you views of minkie, flin and white beuga whales.

motor racing. I'm told that there are marvellous raptors at Horrobagy National Park. Back in the city, violinists keep playing *The Blue Danube* in your face when you're trying to eat soup, but they stop if you pay them. Formula One is considering introducing this principle as a kind of reverse pay-per-view.

August 30: Spa-Francorchamps: In Belgium but not too far from Amsterdam, one of the great cities. Pavement cafés, Rembrandts and the unbelievable Van Gogh museum. "I always think that the best way to know God is to love many things," Vincent said and then painted them like fury. Those of my own generation may care to make a visit to Paradise or the Milksweg to wonder what went wrong. So might Bernie.

September 13: Monza: Handy for Milan, which has the second-best square in Europe, after San Marco. Go on to the cathedral roof and walk among the flying buttresses and spires, which are like slightly melted ice-cream cones. And, of course, they are almost eulent. Dito the passers-by.

September 27: Luxembourg: I have never visited the home of 208, your station of the stars, the radio station that told the world about Horace Batchelor and his *Fatigue Indraw Method* (Kay Ee Why En...).

November 1: Suzuka: The track is about three hours from Tokyo, so forget it. Take the bullet train to Kyoto, and walk The Philosopher's Way. Visit the world's most profound gardens. Contemplate the mysteries of Zen and Jōshū's *mu*, as Bernie wonders about the sound of no hands clapping. Or nip across to Russia for brown bear feeding on spawning salmon.

I realise now that I have neglected to mention the British Grand Prix. This will be held on July 12 at Silverstone. The nearest town is Milton Keynes. I think, on the whole, you're better off going to the grand prix.

\* Thanks to Wildlife World-wide on 0181 667 9158.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHERHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT This hand is from the 1997 Premier League. What is the best line of play in Six Hearts, on a diamond lead?

Table with columns: Dealer South, North-South game, IMPs. Includes card symbols and scores.

At most tables South played in Six Hearts after showing a minimum opening bid with a good heart suit and two aces. North usually bid both clubs and spades, so the opening lead was the queen of diamonds. The queen of spades would have beaten the contract, and at one table a low spade from West also turned out to be the winner - declarer was convinced that West was capable of underleading the ace of spades, so he put up the king from dummy at trick one and the defence took the first three tricks.

After the diamond lead, provided there is no heart loser, you have eleven tricks: six in hearts, two in diamonds and three in clubs. So you need one more from somewhere. One line of play is to try to take a diamond ruff in dummy. That means you have to play off ace and king of diamonds, play a club to the ace and take a diamond ruff. You then cash the king of hearts, and play off the king and queen of clubs. Even if all this passes off successfully, you are in dum-

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Mental feats The tournament in Monaco combined quickplay chess and blindfold chess. Normally blindfold displays are carried out by a grandmaster facing a field of lesser lights. Only a few, such as Reti, Alekhine, Najdorf and Koltanovsky have been able to take on large numbers of opponents at the same time in this particular discipline.

In Monaco, what was tested in the blindfold games was not weight of numbers of the opposition but quality. In blindfold games the grandmasters were shown an empty chessboard on a computer screen and simply indicated their move utilising a computer mouse. The pressure of facing a powerful opponent without being able to see the moves of the pieces did not prevent a high degree of quality being exhibited in the games.

Chess board diagrams and move lists for White: Vassily Ivanchuk, Black: Vladimir Kramnik, Monte Carlo blindfold March 1998.

Chess board diagrams and move lists for Catalan Opening.

WORD-WATCHING

- By Philip Howard FIERASFER a. An arsonist b. A fish c. A jerkin NEWTON'S RINGS a. Windfalls b. Telephones c. Colours GIGGER a. An author b. The power of ten c. A cab-driver PRILLS a. Dry fertiliser b. Waitresses' cuffs c. Small sea creatures

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene White to play. This position is from the game Westerman - Sigurjonsson, New York, 1977. Black has sacrificed a piece for a fierce attack against the white king. White, however, now turned the tables with an attacking sequence of his own. What did he play? Solution on page 42

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RUGBY UNION: WOODWARD USING IRELAND MATCH FOR POSITIONAL EXPERIMENT

England give Catt wide berth

By DAVID HANDS RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

MIKE CATT, who began this season as England's first-choice fly half, will extend his international career against Ireland at Twickenham on Saturday by playing on the right wing. It will be Catt's 20th appearance for his country but his first in that position, indeed the first time in senior rugby that he has started a game there.



This latest change, during a season in which he has been picked at centre, made four appearances at fly half and one at full back, is the result of a horses-for-courses basis that England players are having to accept rapidly.



Catt is flanked by Huscott and Dallaglio, right, as he prepares for his new England role in training yesterday

Clive Woodward's desire to pack his XV with footballers. It is hardly a novel theory. The most obvious of recent England wings with the same skills is Mike Stemen, who, like Woodward, went on to coach his country, while Simon Halliday found himself moved from the centre by Geoff Cooke eight years ago.

Few coaches, though, have pursued the theory with the same tenacity as Woodward, who now has a fly half on one wing and a scrum half, Austin Healey, on the other. "I'm trying to move the game forward in terms of our thinking and how we play," he said yesterday as his players assembled for their final Five Nations Championship match.

His promotion of Catt, whose skills he has always admired and who has now recovered from the concussion sustained playing for Bath against Bristol at the beginning of March, comes at the expense of Adebayo Adebayo. The other casualty from the 34-20 victory over Scotland is at No.8, where Dean Ryan gives way to Tony Diprose on

ENGLAND

M B Perry (Bath); M J Catt (Bath); W J H Greenwood (Leicester); J C Guscott (Bath); A S Healey (Leicester); P J Grayson (Northampton); M J S Dawson (Northampton); J Leonard (Harlequins); R Cookson (Leicester); D J Garforth (Leicester); M O Johnson (Leicester); G S Archer (Newcastle); I B N Dallaglio (Wasps, captain); N A Back (Leicester); A J Diprose (Saracens); Replacements: G C Howarth (Leicester); D E West (Leicester); D J Greenwood (Saracens); D Ryan (Newcastle); S Benton (Gloucester); J Wilkinson (Newcastle); P R de Glanville (Bath).

and that's good," he said. "Austin has been all over the place in the games he has played and there will be times when I'll be needed, especially in open play, as the extra link. I hope I have the ability to read the game well enough so I can fit in. It builds your confidence if the coach believes you can fit in and I need to prove something after Paris."

Playing at full back against France in February, Catt kicked too much possession away and lost his place to Matt Perry, but his versatility has always been one of his great advantages, his speed on the break unequalled by other English fly halves. In defensive terms, wing can be the loneliest of places but Catt's experience at full back should stand him in good stead.

challenge Matt Dawson at scrum half because of his damaged shoulder while Phil Vickery remains out of contention at prop for similar reasons. But the change to the back row was expected, given Diprose's good form for Saracens.

Ryan remains among the replacements, his international comeback having lasted 69 minutes against Scotland, but the switch had been in Woodward's mind even before then. "You think of the opposition, of the style of rugby and the Scotland game was right for Ryan," Woodward said. "I think this game is right for Diprose. He feels he has something to prove, which is good."

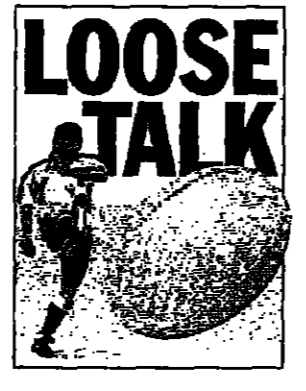
Ireland have added Allen Clarke, the Northampton hooker, to their squad in case Ross Nisdeale, the replacement hooker, succumbs to injury.

RFU plays safe after unpaid final demand

The thinking behind the Rugby Football Union's (RFU) decision not to allow Saracens and Wasps to have tickets for the Tesco's Bitter Cup final on tick can be revealed. It is understood that Sale and Leicester, the finalists last year, between them still owe Twickenham more than £100,000. Both clubs dispute the figures, claiming that they were entitled to a share of proceeds to cover administration costs. This year the RFU is not taking any chances.

corresponding fixture two years ago on a Saturday claimed an audience of 8.4 million. The BBC says it is more than happy with the ratings — whether the Sunday experiment will be continued next season remains to be seen. Despite not having Twickenham games, the BBC has regularly trounced Sky and ITV in head-to-head confrontations this season. Surely this reinforces the argument that the Five Nations as a whole should be part of the protected Crown Jewels?

Blackheath are crossing their fingers that they have raised £1 million from a private share placement to ensure that their ground-breaking joint venture with Auckland goes ahead. The deadline for applications



passed at midnight last night. A spokesman said: "Getting people to act and send in the cheques has been nerve-racking."

Brothers in arms Congratulations to RGS High Wycombe. The school had

four sets of brothers, including twins, involved in representative teams over the weekend. Twins Ben and Tom Whitehouse played in the Schools' Cup Under-15 final at Twickenham against Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Wakefield; Adam Gilbert also played in that team, while his older brother, Simon, was part of the under-18 team beaten by Colston's Collegiate, Bristol. Simon Duncornbe was a member of that side, while his younger brother, Nick, played at scrum half for England 16 group against Wales. Last but not least, Mark Honeyban captained the under-15s and Matthew, his elder brother, was fly half in the England A Under-16 team against Wales last Friday. Unfortunately, none finished on the winning side.

Blast from past

And finally... Wayne Davage, the Blaenavon Harlequins captain, knew that he had blundered when he squared up to Abersychan's tight-head prop during a recent Pontypool and District second division match. There, glaring back at him, were the granite features of Graham Price, arguably Wales's finest front-row forward. At 46, he is still packing down — 20 years after playing in the Wales side that beat France 16-7 in Cardiff to clinch their last grand slam. "He told me to go away," Davage said. "And I took his advice — the same as anyone else would if they had any sense!"

MARK SOUSTER

Sunday service

The official television ratings for the Calcutta Cup match at Murrayfield — the first to be held on a Sunday — provide food for thought. An average of 5.3 million watched the match on BBC2 — yet the

Blackheath are crossing their fingers that they have raised £1 million from a private share placement to ensure that their ground-breaking joint venture with Auckland goes ahead. The deadline for applications

Answers from page 41
FIERASFER (b) A small parasitic fish, of the family Carapidae, found in Mediterranean and British waters.
NEWTON'S RINGS (c) The effect produced when light is shown on a thin transparent film. Some light is reflected from the top surface, some goes in and is then reflected back off the bottom.
GIGGER (a) Ronyard Kipling was called Giggers when he went to the United Services College, Westward Ho! He was aged 12 and the only boy wearing spectacles. He was called Giggams, hence Giggers. The school moved to Harpenden in 1904 and to Windsor in 1906. It changed its name to Imperial Service College in 1912. In 1942, with both schools in trouble with numbers, it amalgamated with Haslebury. ISC was dropped from the title in 1966.
FRILLS (a) Crystals of ammonium nitrate, from 1 to 3 millimetres in diameter. A solution of the nitrate is concentrated to around 96 per cent, and the hot liquid is sprayed into the top of the prilling tower, which is 30 metres high. There it falls through an up-current of cold, dry air, producing the prills at the bottom.
SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE 1. Qxg7+ Kxg7; 2. Bb5+ Kh8 (2... Kf7; 3. Bb5 mate or 2... Kh6; 3. Rh3 mate); 3. Rg8+ Kxg8; 4. Bf6+ Rg7; 5. Bxg7+ Kxg6; 6. Bxd4+ and White wins.

TODAY'S FIXTURES
FOOTBALL
Kick-off 7.30 unless stated
European Cup
Semi-finals, first leg
Juventus v AS Monaco (7.45)
Real Madrid v Borussia Dortmund (7.45)
Nationwide League
First division
Nottm Forest v Sheffield United (7.45)
QPR v Wolverhampton (7.45)
BFL's Scottish League
Premier division
Rangers v Hibernian (7.45)
UNBOND LEAGUE: Premier division
Barnoldswick v Fleetwood
Fleetwood v Leigh
First division
Bradford Park Avenue v Whitley Bay
Farsley Celtic v Balgownie
Challenge Cup: Semi-final, second leg
Gainsborough (2) v Blyth Spartans (1)
DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Southern division
Newport AFC v Fleet Town
Walsworth v Crayke
Midland division: RC Warwick v Garsham (7.45)
RYMAN LEAGUE: First division: Craydon v Billingsley (7.45)
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Charlton Athletic v Weymouth (2.0)
Luton v Southampton (at Hitchin Town FC, 2.0)
PONTIFR'S LEAGUE: Premier division
Birmingham v Tranmere Rovers (at Huddersfield Town FC, 7.15)
First division: Bolton Wanderers v Manchester City (at Leigh FC, 7.0)
County v Port Vale (7.0)
Huddersfield v West Bromwich Albion (7.0)
Middlesbrough v Leicester (7.0)
Wolverhampton Wanderers v Grimsby (at Telford United FC, 7.0)
Second division: Barnsley v York (7.0)
Rochdale v Lincoln (7.0)
Shrewsbury v Walsham (7.0)
Stockport v Burnley (at Hyde United FC, 7.0)
Third division: Hull v Southport (7.0)
Walsall v Bury (7.0)
LEAGUE OF WALES: Elbow Vale v Barry (at Merthyr Tydfil FC)
Cwmbran v Ystrad Cade-Ty
COMPLETE MUSIC HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier Division: Hellen v Shortwood
Tulley v Almondbury
Wantage v Banbury
ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Duxton v Northolt
Jarrow Roofing v Bedlington Terriers
WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Shippely v Faversham.
SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division (7.45)
Chappenharn v Taunton; Mansfield United v Elmora; Torrington v Bideford.
MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division
South: Brock House v Arnhem (7.45)
ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Bowers v Great Waltham.

TELEVISION CHOICE

Food for fancy footballers

Antonio Carluccio's Southern Italian Feast
BBC2, 8.00pm
Sardinia is the first stop in this new series by the genial Italian cook who loves his food and has the wit to prove it. An Antonio Carluccio diet would be a contradiction in terms. Having said that, most of the dishes Carluccio demonstrates tonight are the epitome of healthy eating, unless you count the three sorts of cheese that go into his ravioli. There is a fourth cheese on view, a speciality of the local shepherds, but since it is crawling with maggots even our plucky chef shies away. The ravioli is prepared for a famous son of Sardinia, currently plying his trade on English football grounds. But the father of Chelsea's Gianfranco Zola still lives on the island, as do an extraordinary number of cousins. Ravioli apart, Carluccio grills mushrooms and knocks up a very fair platter of seafood.



Chef Antonio Carluccio (BBC2, 8.00pm)

Home Front
BBC2, 8.30pm
There is a moment of history tonight when the recipients of a makeover from the flame-haired Anne McKevitt dislike what she has done and change it. In all the five previous series of Home Front it is difficult to recall the happenings. The cause of the rebellion, the wall of a new shower room, may be trivial but if this goes on the show is in danger of disintegrating. For it is axiomatic that the people who call in the experts to redecorate their homes like what they see and say so in extravagant terms. Luckily most of them still do, enthusing over eccentric colour schemes from the same McKevitt which some of us might find garish and tasteless. The running story of the new series is about an unconventional couple who have taken over a derelict barn in Norfolk and hope to convert it to the home of their dreams.

is only one marriage among the group and no children, and many of them are still reluctant to make commitments and settle down. Of the value of friendship there is no doubt, particularly when times are bad. As one of the characters says: "It's like having a big cushion behind you to push you back up." Friendship can even survive such emotional traumas as losing the great love of your life to one of your best mates. Sarah used to be with Carl but left him for Gerrard.

Modern Times: Friends
BBC2, 9.00pm
Emma Hewitt's film captures the thoughts and emotions of a group of people in their mid-thirties, most of whom have known each other since their early schooldays and are still close. They have mostly pursued successful careers, though their private lives seem to have been less fulfilled. There

First on Four
Channel 4, 10.00pm
Channel 4 cannot claim credit for launching all the new comedians who emerged in the mid-1980s but with Saturday Live and Friday Night Live it gave many of their careers a decisive push. The shows not only went out live, which gave them an extra edge of danger and excitement, but, in the words of one luminary, Lenny Henry, "put a firework up the bum of British comedy". The series often came close to being taken off, not least after an outrageous contribution from Pamela Stephenson, and Ben Elton, another star, recalls having to perform his routine in front of a story-faced lawyer. Not all is rosy. Saturday Live was a broad enough church to embrace not only Henry, Elton, Harry Enfield and Jo Brand, but Peter Cook, Dame Edna Everage and Michael Barrymore. Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

The Bells, The Bells
Radio 2, 9.00pm
They have been making bells, Big Ben among them, at Whitechapel (Bell Foundry) in London for 400 years. The author's Alan Hughes reckons that "the sound of church bells ringing is very much part of the tapestry of this country and you have this tiny number of people, 40,000 (bellingers), producing a large part of the fabric of what is England". This programme, presented by Brian Blessed, looks at campanology in all its forms, complete with plenty of examples: I don't think that the elderly woman recently taken to court for damaging the church bells that blighted her life will be listening by the end of the programme. But there is certainly something haunting about bells properly rung.

Bag-a-Bagel
Radio 4, 2.00pm
Sue Tiddem, one of the writers of Birds of a Feather, writes this comedy with Julie Whitefield as Shirley Silver and Matilda Ziegler as her daughter, Debbie. Shirley walks something of an empire after her husband builds out leaving behind only the recipe for his mother's bagels. Shirley has used that to best advantage so that by the time we meet her she has become a business heroine for women, complete with the obligatory radio interviews. "Seven o'clock in the morning and I'm expected to be profound to a 12-year-old reporter", Debbie, marketing director for her mother's firm, is unfulfilled, and the situation reaches a critical point when Shirley's company becomes the target of a takeover bid. Peter Barnard

RADIO 1

6.30am Kevin Greening and Zola Ball 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whitey. Includes 12.30pm Newsbeat 2.00 Chris Moyles 4.00 Dave Pearce includes 5.45 Newsbeat 8.00 Dave Pearce 8.30 The Evening News 8.30 Movie Update 8.40 John Peel. Includes music from Bargheston 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs 1.00am Christie Jordan 4.00 Clive Warren

WORLD SERVICE

7.00am News 7.30 World of Football 8.00 News 8.15 On the Show 8.30 Meridian Live 8.00 News (648 only) News in German 9.10 Pause for Thought 9.15 Weather 9.30 The Evening News 10.00 News 10.05 World Business Report 10.15 The Evening News 10.30 Britain Now 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 One Planet 12.00 Newsdesk 12.30pm World of Football 1.00 News (648 only) News in German 1.05 World Business Report 1.15 Britain Today 1.30 Seven Days 1.45 Sports Roundup 2.00 Newsdesk 3.00 News 3.05 Outlook 3.30 Megami 4.00 News 4.05 Sports Roundup 4.15 Performance 4.30 Eyewitness (648 only) News in German 4.35 Europe Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Britain Today 6.00 News 6.15 Insight 6.30 From Our Own Correspondent (648 only) News in German 6.45 Sports Roundup 7.00 Newsdesk 7.30 The World 8.01 Outlook 8.25 Pause for Thought 8.30 Multitrack X-Press 9.00 Newsdesk 10.00 News 10.05 World Business Report 10.15 Britain Today 10.30 On Screen 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Insight 11.45 Sports Roundup 12.00 News 12.05am Outlook 12.30 Multitrack X-Press 1.00 Newsdesk 1.30 From Our Own Correspondent 1.45 Britain Today 2.00 Newsdesk 2.30 Omnibus 3.00 Newsdesk 3.30 Meridian Books 4.00 News 4.05 World Business Report 4.15 Sports Roundup 4.30 The World Today 5.00 The World Today

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 8.30 Kun Buzo 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thorne 3.00 Alex Lester 5.00 John Dunn 7.00 Nick Barnard 8.00 Ralph McTell 9.00 The Bells, The Bells. See Choice 8.30 Around Wickie's World 10.00 The Steve Wright Picture Show 10.30 Mo'Nita 11.45 The People's Poems 12.05am Steve Madden 3.00 Annie Clien

RADIO 3

6.00am The Breakfast Programme 9.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00 Midday with Mel 2.00pm Ruscoe on Five 4.00 Natascia 7.00 News. Extra 7.30 Football Night. Coverage of the Champions' League semi-finals, first leg 10.00 Late Night Live 1.00am Up All Night 5.00 Morning Reports

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme 9.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00 Midday with Mel 2.00pm Ruscoe on Five 4.00 Natascia 7.00 News. Extra 7.30 Football Night. Coverage of the Champions' League semi-finals, first leg 10.00 Late Night Live 1.00am Up All Night 5.00 Morning Reports

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Breakfast with Bailey 8.00 Harry Kelly Michael Barry prepares tortillas and records of the Week. Includes the best of the new releases 12.00 Lunchtime Requests with Jane Marlowe 2.00pm Concerto Albinoni (Obbo Concerto in D minor) 3.00 Jamie Cullum. Including Afternoon Romance and Continuum Classics 8.30 Newswatch. Presented by John Brunning 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven with John Brunning 8.00 Evening Concert. Tommasini (Overture, The Good Humoured Ladies), Kablevsky (The Comedians, Suite for Orchestra), Mozart (A Musical Joke), Hovh (The Perfect Fool), Sullivan (Overture, The Sorcerer's Oukos (The Sorcerer's Apprentice), Verdi air Madama's (The Lady and the Fool) 11.00 Mann at Night 2.00am Concerto (3) 3.00 Mark Griffiths

VIRGIN RADIO

5.00am Cairn Jones 7.00 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show 10.00 Russ Williams 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Robin Ribs 7.00 (FM) Paul Coyte (AM) Ray Cokes 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00am Richard Porter

TALK RADIO

6.50am Kirsty Young with Bill Overton 8.00 Scott Chisham 10.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Dinkley 7.00 Anna Reabum 9.00 James Whale 1.00am Ian Collins 5.00 The Early Show

RADIO 4

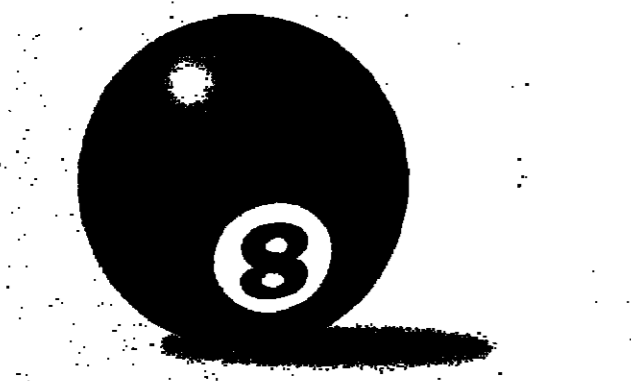
4.00 Choral Evensong. Live from Wakefield Cathedral 5.00 In Tune, with Sean Rafferty 7.00 Performance on 3: Rientz. David Pountney's new production for Vienna State Opera of Wagner's longest opera. Siegfried Jerusalem, tenor; Nancy Gustafson, soprano; Violetta Urman, mezzo; Walter Fink, bass; Peter Weber, bass. Bratislava Philharmonic Choir, Vienna State Opera Chorus and Orchestra under Zubin Mehta. Acts 1 and 2 8.30 Postcard: Writing between the Bar Lines (3/4) 9.15 Rientz, Acts 3, 4 and 5 10.45 Night Waves. Includes a report on Stephen Dillane's performance as Chekov's Uncle Vanya. Continues Composers of the Week: Louis and Francois Couperin, with Paul Guirey (1) 12.30am Jazz Notes, with Digby Fairweather 1.00 Through the Night, with Donald Macleod

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Patric Treleavy 9.00 Masterworks, with Peter Hobbay 10.30 Artist of the Week: Ely Arneling (3/5) 11.00 Sunday Service: The House of Atrius 12.00 Composer of the Week: Isaac Millan (3/5) 1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. Live from the Wigmore Hall, London. Directed from the piano by Michael Law and with vocalists Louise Cookman, Janice Day and Michael Law, the Pizzocally Dance Orchestra recreates the 1920s and 1930s, with songs by Cole Porter, George Gershwin, Noël Coward and Jack Buchanan 2.00 The BBC Orchestra BBC Philharmonic under Matthias Bamert, Richard Hickox and Vasily Sinaisky. Mussorgsky, arr. Sokolov (A Night on the Bare Mountain); Rachmaninov (Piano Concerto No 3 in D minor)

RADIO 4

5.55am (LW) Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.58 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Nickwale, with the Times columnist Libby Purves and her guest Piers Gough 10.00 News: Kuteba Busha Half-Baked Bread (1) 10.00 (LW) News: Daily Services: On These Days 10.30 Woman's Hour. Introduced by Jenni Murray 11.30 Gardeners' Question Time (1) 12.00 News: You and Yours, with Mark Whitaker 12.25pm Born to Be Perfect (1) 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One, with Robin Lustig 1.40 The Archers (1) 1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00 News: Bag-A-Bagel. See Choice 2.45 Stage of Redemption, Adam Thorpe (8/7) 3.00 News: The Afternoon Shift, with Daira Bragan 4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope, with Paul Gambaccini



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# Gagarin: the rocket man who fell to Earth

Melvin Bragg's *South Bank Show* still turns out uncritical profiles but mostly we get the other, debunking sort. Channel 4 with *Secret Lives* and BBC2 with *Reputations* have been steadily working through the good and famous and suggesting that even the most saintly figures were somewhat less than perfect. There can have been no more heroic figure in the past 50 years than Yuri Gagarin, the first man in space, but trust television to knock him down.

James Doran's *Reputations* Special, last night, called Yuri Gagarin: Starman (BBC2) not so much a hatchet job, however, as the study of a man who achieved international fame in 108 minutes (the time he spent on his historic flight in April 1961) and lived the rest of his life as severe anti-climax. Partly the fault was the Soviet regime, which seemed almost determined to find Gagarin

nothing worthwhile to do. He never went into space again and struggled even to resume his original passion of flying aircraft. It was no wonder, perhaps, that he took heavily to drink and tried to cheat on his wife with hotel chambermaids.

The film tried, without much success, to throw fresh light on Gagarin's premature death in an air crash but was surer ground in charting his early years. He grew up on a collective farm which was occupied by German troops during the Second World War, and saw German atrocities at close hand. He was resilient enough to come through. The point was well made that as the son of a poor rural labourer he was exactly the sort of hero the Soviet Union needed to advertise its lead in the space race. The smiling fresh-faced son of the soil was to be antidote to America's decadent capitalist icon, Elvis Presley. Indeed Gagarin was

chosen for the flight over an equally qualified rival precisely because of his proletarian origins. The other astronaut had the misfortune to be the son of a teacher, not exactly the upper reaches of the bourgeoisie but enough to lose him the job. He told us how upset he was to be passed over and still sounds bitter.

The film was good on the incidental detail, much of it provided through first-hand recollection. Unknown to him, and ever more to the wider world, Gagarin was given only a 50:50 chance of survival. Three envelopes were prepared, with three different announcements: the success of the flight; the failure of the flight; Gagarin's survival. Gagarin's death was exactly the sort of hero the Soviet Union needed to advertise its lead in the space race. The smiling fresh-faced son of the soil was to be antidote to America's decadent capitalist icon, Elvis Presley. Indeed Gagarin was

## REVIEW



Peter Waymark

when it was announced on the radio. Then he went off smiling round the world, only to disappear from view soon afterwards, and almost the next thing we knew was that he was dead at the age of 34.

Although John Thaw continues to switch his northern vowels on and off with sometimes startling abruptness, Kavanagh QC (ITV) continues to give good value. As in the previous series, Charles Wood

has been recruited to the script writing team and much to the show's benefit. Wood is one of television's finest writers, even though dramas such as *Tumbledown* seem a long time ago, and professional enough to take on a format created by others and stay true to it while making his own individual mark.

The centrepiece of Wood's scenario had Thaw's Kavanagh defending a woman (Lynda Steadman) accused of murdering her husband. As she was almost too ready to admit to the crime, the challenge for our star barrister was to persuade her that she was provoked and therefore deserving of sympathetic treatment. That she was disinclined to take this route made for some juicy confrontations.

Apart from its pitifully septic court battles, the delight of the series is the unctuous Jeremy Aldermatten, played deliciously

by Nicholas Jones. All the best popular drama needs light relief and this the Aldermatten character admirably provides. A subplot which had Aldermatten accused of taking a peak at another barrister's brief, and being forced to grovel to Kavanagh for help as he faced a disciplinary hearing, was a perfect counterpoint to the main business. One reservation about the current series is that Valerie Edmond's scary junior has still not quite found her role. Wood could not help much but perhaps some future scriptwriter will.

Desmond Wilcox's forte is presenting stories of admirable people without being patronising or mushy about them. Pat Kerr, the former British Airways stewardess who helped to raise an orphanage in Bangladesh, is the perfect Wilcox subject. She first encountered the children's village 30 miles north of

Dhaka while flying to Bangladesh for BA, and decided to stay and help. That was 12 years ago. She has become an occupational therapist but thinks nothing of popping out to Bangladesh for a long weekend. Wilcox has already made three films about her. Last night we saw the fourth, informally titled *A Wedding, a Crisis and 600 Children* (ITV) which saw her married in Bangladesh to her businessman fiancé Derek Palmer. As the title suggests there were many youthful guests.

It is easy to be cynical about such projects but Wilcox has been making them long enough to strike the right balance, allowing the proper expression of admiration for a good woman and rejoicing with her on the happiest day of her life, before letting sentiment get out of control. A film about Kerr, or Mrs Palmer as she now is, will surely be added to the Wilcox canon one of these days.

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (75555)**  
**7.00 BBC Breakfast News (1) (39401)**  
**9.00 Good Living (9332536)**  
**9.25 Kilo (1) (4793772)**  
**10.05 Style Challenge (7931739)**  
**10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (1) (502642)**  
**10.55 The Really Useful Show (1) (9801159)**  
**11.35 Real Rooms (4527420)**  
**12.00 News (1) (2986739)**  
**12.05pm Call My Bluff (3263772)**  
**12.35 Wipeout (4897064)**  
**1.00 News (1) and weather (49888)**  
**1.30 Regional News (1) (7736373)**  
**1.40 The Weather Show (64912401)**  
**1.45 Neighbours (1) (9239555)**  
**2.10 Lion Country (30937246)**  
**2.40 Reading from the Bible includes the 3.05 and 3.35 repeats (587170)**  
**3.50 ChickieVision (1771642) 4.10 Get Your Own Back (2508807) The Demon Headmaster (1) (8038536) 5.00 Newsround (1) (5249284) 5.10 Blue Peter (1) (4976325)**  
**5.35 Neighbours (1) (764710)**  
**6.00 Six O'Clock News (1) and weather (36)**  
**6.30 Regional News (1) (86)**  
**7.00 Junior Masterchef Young contestants from the South West and Wales, chef Alison Yetman and Alan Titchmarsh judge (1) (1710)**  
**7.30 Tomorrow's World A ship with legs for the choppy seas around Hawaii; a fire alarm which can guide people out of smoke-filled buildings (1) (72)**  
**8.00 Doctors' Orders Dr Paul Slade faces breaking bad news to a patient (1) (7130)**  
**8.30 The National Lottery Draw With Due South star Paul Gross and pop-punk foursome Snug (1) (791130)**  
**8.45 Points of View presented by Carol Vorderman (1) (714081)**  
**9.00 News (1) and weather (1979)**  
**9.25 National Lottery Update (275178)**  
**9.30 The Thin Blue Line Patricia joins a group of environmentalists protesting against a proposed bypass, which places Fowler in a difficult position (1) (1) (93994)**  
**10.00 Timecop (1994) Sci-fi adventure, starring Jean-Claude Van Damme, Ron Silver and Nia Sora. Directed by Paul Verhoeven (1) (257333) WALES: 10.00 Bright Smoke: profile of actor Michael Sheen (876449) 10.40 FILM: Timecop (7208622) 12.15am International One-Day Cricket: West Indies v England (252444) 1.10 News (467866) 2.00 BBC News 24**

- 6.00am History of Maths (1174979) 6.35 Things at the Alhambra (6515804)**  
**7.00 See Hear News (1) and signing (8661913)**  
**7.15 Teletubbies (1) (2318826) 7.40 Captain Caveman (1) 8.00 Record Breakers Gold (1) (44772) 8.30 Postman Pat (1) (919741) 8.45 The Record (4923240) 9.10 News: Text Exposed (5314897) 10.10 Teletubbies (25710)**  
**10.30 Lured (1947, b/w) Murder mystery with Lucille Ball as an American dancer who helps Scotland Yard catch a killer while stranded in London. With George Sanders and Boris Karloff. Directed by Douglas Sirk (8692333)**  
**12.10pm Wear It Well (1) (134604) 12.30 Working Lunch (73772) 1.00 Day the Dragoness (6174373) 1.05 Bananaman (6173571) 1.10 The Art and Antiques Hour (1) (568917)**  
**2.10 Racing from Ascot Live coverage of the 2.30 Fairview New Homes Novices' Steeplechase. Continues on BBC1 at 2.40 (5083688)**  
**2.40 News (1) (7334915) 2.45 Westminster with Anna Mackenzie (1) (6876623) 3.55 News (1) (229822)**  
**4.00 Change That in Winchester (1) (1) (1) 4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (8035807) 4.55 Esther: Practical Jokes (4012884) 5.30 Today's the Day (65)**  
**6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (1) (1) (423997)**  
**6.45 Sliders (1) (1) (310255)**  
**7.30 Courtmaster (2)**  
**8.00 Antonio Carluccio's Southern Italian Feast New series of recipes from regions of southern Italy, beginning in Sardinia (1) (5772)**  
**8.30 Home Front Tessa Shaw presents a new series of interior design and DIY tips (1) (4807)**

- 6.00am GMTV (1800913)**  
**9.25 This Morning (1) (902197)**  
**9.30 Vanessa: Dolly Dainters (1) (1529933) (8661913)**  
**10.10 This Morning (1) (555446)**  
**12.15pm Regional News (2985642)**  
**12.30 News (1) and weather (25045)**  
**1.00 Shortland Street (67294)**  
**1.30 Home and Away (1) (76587)**  
**2.45 Waffle (1) (971082)**  
**3.15 News (1) (2002772)**  
**3.20 Regional News (2632913)**  
**3.25 Tots TV (2622336) 3.35 The Blobs (6897178) 3.45 Paddington Bear (1) (971255) 3.50 Kipper (1) (952130) 4.00 Oscar and Friends (5290536) 4.05 The Wombles (7709401) 4.20 Wool (1) (1) (266159) 4.45 How Goes 2 (1) (8027888)**  
**5.10 WALES: PrimeTime Diary (1) (1125265)**  
**5.10 Van Cook - The Best of Christmas: Imperial Banquet (1125265)**  
**5.40 News (1) and weather (847604)**  
**6.00 Home and Away (1) (1) (304343)**  
**6.25 WALES: Wales Tonight (1) (278555)**  
**6.25 HTV Weather (869739)**  
**6.30 The West Tonight (1) (1)**  
**7.00 Emmerdale The Cairns family problems and in violence (1) (3178)**  
**7.30 The Big Match: Champions' League Live Bob Wilson presents live coverage of the first-leg of the semi-final between Real Madrid and Borussia Dortmund (1) Includes the Lottery Result (27210062)**  
**8.00 Subsequent programmes are subject to delay and alteration**  
**9.45 Coronation Street A mysterious visitor arrives on Les's doorstep (1) (136333)**  
**10.15 News at Ten (1), weather and Lottery Result (150642)**  
**10.45 Regional News (1) (869710)**

- 6.00am Country Practice (67284)**  
**1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (5857352)**  
**5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (1125265)**  
**6.25-7.00 Central News (278555)**  
**2.45am The Big Match (239050)**  
**4.30 Central Jobfinder '98 (5223024)**  
**5.20 Asian Eye (4835531)**
- WESTCOUNTRY**  
 As HTV West except:  
 12.15pm-12.30 Illuminations (6161772)  
 1.00 Emmerdale (67284)  
 1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (5857352)  
 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (1125265)  
 6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (86517)  
 10.44 Westcountry Weather (673159)
- MERIDIAN**  
 As HTV West except:  
 12.15-12.30 News and Weather (6161772)  
 1.10-5.40 Home and Away (1125265)  
 6.00 Meridian Tonight (84)  
 6.30-7.00 Doing It Up (4)  
 5.00am Freescan (44442)
- ANGLIA**  
 As HTV West except:  
 12.15pm Anglia Air Watch (2956110)  
 1.00-1.30 Surprise Chefs (67284)  
 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (1125265)  
 6.25 Anglia Weather (694668)  
 6.25-7.00 Anglia News (278555)  
 10.44 Anglia Air Watch (673159)
- SAT**  
 Starts:  
 7.00am The Big Breakfast (62739)  
 9.00 FILM: They Were Sisters (1945) Melodrama following the fortunes of three siblings. With Phyllis Calvert, James Mason and Dulcie Gray (586594)  
 11.05 London's Country (598791)  
 11.30 Powerhouse (7352)  
 12.00pm Ricki Lake (72555)  
 12.30 Sesame Street (29028)  
 1.00 Slot Meltrhin (83526975)  
 1.15 Smt Yr Ci (8351310)  
 1.30 FILM: These Halls for Lisa (1965) Musical comedy starring Sid James, Joe Brown and Una Stubbs (86205875)  
 3.25 Fresh Pop (2639626)  
 3.30 Collectors' Lot (62)  
 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (7)  
 4.30 Countdown (81)  
 5.00 S Pumps (5400710)  
 5.15 Ffrell (5211401)  
 5.30 I Dream of Jeannie (33)  
 6.00 Newyddion 6 (428807)  
 6.10 Heno (728569)  
 7.00 Pobol y Cwm (984333)  
 7.25 Ffermio (189517)  
 8.00 Hawtley (8028)  
 8.30 Newyddion (9975)  
 9.00m The Peacekeeper (2772)  
 10.00 Brookside (143622)  
 10.35 ER (187343)  
 11.30 Ffresler (16062)  
 12.00am Under the Moon (869837)  
 2.00am NBA XFL (84734)  
 4.30 Gamesmaster (54111)  
 5.00 Diwedd (1586734)

- 6.00am Sesame Street (1) (68265)**  
**7.00 The Big Breakfast (62739)**  
**9.00 They Were Sisters (b/w, 1945) with Phyllis Calvert, Dulcie Gray and Anne Crawford. Melodrama about the married life of three sisters. Directed by Arthur Crabtree (9665994)**  
**11.05 London's Country (598791) 11.30 Powerhouse (1) (7352) 12.00 Sesame Street (72555) 12.30pm I Dream of Jeannie (29028) 1.00 Late Lunch with Ruby Wax (1) (58266)**  
**1.30 Johnny Eager (b/w, 1941) with Robert Taylor and Lana Turner. Taylor is a paroled crook who pretends to go straight while continuing with his criminal activities and falling in love with the daughter of the attorney who sent him to jail. Directed by Mervyn LeRoy (115555)**  
**3.30 Collectors' Lot Ornamental rabbits, knitting patterns, a shell grotto in Kent and a collection of steam engines in Yorkshire (1) (62)**  
**4.00 Fifteen-to-One (1) (7) 4.30 Countdown (1) (8020975)**  
**4.55 Ricki Lake Drag artist Rupaul transforms unsuspecting men into women (1) (6717212)**  
**5.30 Pat Rescue The centre receives several abandoned cats (1) (33)**  
**6.00 Late Lunch What used to be Light Lunch (1) (46)**  
**6.30 Friends: The One With The List Rachel makes a painful discovery about Ross. Monica is set an impossible task (1) (1) (8)**  
**7.00 Channel 4 News and weather (1) (555401)**  
**7.55 Mafia Cookbook Dessert pizzas (50002)**  
**8.00 Brookside Why is Jacqui determined to have Kate as her birth-partner? (1) (8028)**  
**8.30 TV Dinners An early retirement dinner with creamy artichoke soup, quails, stuffed with red peppers and pine-nuts, and caramelised apples; a christening buffet of Victorian dishes including goose stuffed with chicken stuffed with duck (13/14) (9975)**  
**9.00 ER: Carter's Choice The serial rapist is finally caught but it is the ER staff who reluctantly have to save his life (2772)**

- 6.00am News Early (1) (2307642)**  
**7.00 WorldWide Recording current events for historians of the future (1/5) (1) (1073284) 7.30 Milkshake! (5622826) 7.35 Wirz's case (1) (8145994) 8.00 Hawakawa (1) (971517) 8.30 Dapple-down Farm (1) (8570888)**  
**9.00 Espresso (9284623) 10.00 Hairy Hunters (1) (1) (749249) 10.30 Sunset Beach (1) (656387) 11.10 Lezza (530333)**  
**12.00 News (1) (8574604) 12.30pm Family Affairs (1) (1) (1488934) 1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (1) (1072555) 1.30 Sons and Daughters (1487255) 2.00 Britain's Law (7493178) 3.00 100 Per Cent Gold (8158130)**  
**3.30 MADD - Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (1983) with Mariette Hartley, Paula Prentiss and Bart Menner. Drama about a woman who founded the anti-drink-driver movement after her daughter was killed. William Graham directs (268739)**  
**5.25 Russell Grant's Postcards: A Wet Wimbledon (24552642)**  
**5.30 The Great Game (1) (1) (8698284)**  
**6.00 100 Per Cent (863197)**  
**6.30 Family Affairs Roy tries to return the stolen cash and Melanie is questioned by the police (1) (8654449)**  
**7.00 News (1) (8180739)**  
**7.30 Hairy Hunters: Handsome Killers A film about the closely related stunts and wessels, which can kill prey several times their own size (1) (8943333)**

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- VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes**  
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- SKY 1**  
**7.00am Street Strife (7449) 7.30 Games Week (1987) (8875) 8.00 The Englishman Who Went Up a Hill But Came Down a Mountain (1987) (8875) 10.00 Film in the Sky (1985) (8875) 11.25 Village of the Damned (1988) (1977) 1.15am News (1985) (8875) 2.55 In the Pursuit of Happiness (1970) (804182) 4.25 Travels of Marco Polo (1989) (161314)**  
**SKY MOVIES GOLD**  
**4.00pm Holiday Affair (1949) (473234) 6.00 The Trail of the Pink Panther (1982) (644248) 8.00 Old Gringo (1989) (473234) 10.00 Action Jackson (1988) (473234) 11.40 Casanova (1985) (473234) 1.10am The Pleasure of My Secret (1989) (817349) 2.55 Another Woman (1986) (8673734) 4.20 Abbott Women (1949) (172463) 5.40 Close**  
**TNT**  
**9.00pm Clash of the Titans (1981) (802710) 11.00 Tarzan and the Apes Man (1982) (802710) 1.00am The Four Musketeers (1982) (295102) 3.30 Clash of the Titans (1981) (4037666)**  
**SKY SPORTS 1**  
**7.00am Sports Centre (3701) 7.30 Cycling (61842) 8.30 Sports Centre (3713) 9.00 News (86371) 10.00 Football Show (12772) 11.00 Football Show (12772) 11.30 V-Max (81255) 11.50 V-Max (81255) 12.00 Sports Centre (3713) 12.30am Sports Centre (3713) 1.00am Sports Centre (3713) 1.30am Sports Centre (3713) 2.00am Sports Centre (3713) 2.30am Sports Centre (3713) 3.00am Sports Centre (3713) 3.30am Sports Centre (3713)**  
**SKY SPORTS 2**  
**7.00am Aerobics (622323) 7.30 Sports Centre (3713) 8.00 Racing News (62504) 8.30 Fish TV (822212) 9.30 Women's Golf: Naboko Daria Surova (62504) 11.30 Golf Extra (62504) (62504) 1.00 Day Craker: West Indies v England - Live (62504) 6.00 Euro Tour Weekly (336746) 6.30 One-Day Cricket**

- SKY BOX OFFICE**  
 Sky's pay-per-view movie channels. To view any film telephone 090 80088. Each film costs £2.99 (per viewing).  
**SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 26) The Crucible (1996)**  
**SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 90) Eddie (1993)**  
**SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 50) The English Patient (1996)**  
**SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58) In Love and War (1996)**  
**SKY MOVIES SCEN 1**  
**6.00am Revolver Gang (1988) (41361) 7.30 Long Walk Home (1990) (50429) 9.30 Looking for Trouble (1995) (68077) 11.00 Volcano: Fire on the Mountain (1990) (80207) 1.00am Long Walk Home (1990) (50429) 3.00 The Dollmaker (1988) (865048) 5.00 Looking for Trouble (1995) (68077) 7.00 Volcano: Fire on the Mountain (1990) (80207) 9.00 Kluge (1988) (22811) 11.00 Blue-Dome (1988) (821555) 12.00am Long Walk Home (1990) (50429) 2.00 The Shmoo: Cracker Conspiracy (1994) (932311)**  
**SKY MOVIES SCEN 2**  
**6.00am Crack-Up (1994) (2517) 8.00 The Truth About Charles (1984) (64623) 10.00 Blood and Sand (1941) (24420) 12.00 The Englishman Who Went Up a Hill But Came Down a Mountain (1987)**

- SKY SPORTS 3**  
**12.00 Cycling (6277888) 1.00pm Fish TV (822212) 2.00 Sports Centre: Curry v Hansen (800402) 3.00 Rugby Union Classics: Wales v Scotland 1972 (8789284) 3.30 Waterpolo World (8789284) 4.00 Euro Tour Weekly (8789284) 4.30 Euro Tour Weekly (8789284) 5.00 Euro Tour Weekly (8789284) 5.30 Euro Tour Weekly (8789284) 6.00 Euro Tour Weekly (8789284) 6.30 Euro Tour Weekly (8789284) 7.00 Euro Tour Weekly (8789284) 7.30 Euro Tour Weekly (8789284) 8.00 Euro Tour Weekly (8789284) 8.30 Euro Tour Weekly (8789284) 9.00 Euro Tour Weekly (8789284) 9.30 Euro Tour Weekly (8789284) 10.00 Euro Tour Weekly (8789284) 10.30 Euro Tour Weekly (8789284) 11.00 Euro Tour Weekly (8789284) 11.30 Euro Tour Weekly (8789284) 12.00 Euro Tour Weekly (8789284)**  
**EUROSPORT**  
**7.30am Speed Skating (68710) 8.30 Figure Skating (196642) 11.00 UEFA Cup (76159) 12.00am Tennis (62551) 1.00 Eurosport News (70710) 2.00m Figure Skating (913249) 4.00 Speedway (97739) 5.30m LPGA Cup (446248) 11.00m Speedway (49197) 12.00m Motorsport (48937) 12.30am Close**  
**UK GOLD**  
**7.00am Never the Tamer (576742) 7.25 The Bill (197826) 8.00 Crossroads (526342) 8.25 Einfelders (563449) 9.00 The Bill (197826) 9.30 Howards' Way (896728) 10.00m Sky Sports (1) (2513) 10.30m Sky Sports (1) (2513) 11.00m Sky Sports (1) (2513) 11.30m Sky Sports (1) (2513) 12.00m Sky Sports (1) (2513) 12.30m Sky Sports (1) (2513) 1.00am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 1.30am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 2.00am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 2.30am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 3.00am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 3.30am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 4.00am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 4.30am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 5.00am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 5.30am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 6.00am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 6.30am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 7.00am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 7.30am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 8.00am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 8.30am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 9.00am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 9.30am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 10.00am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 10.30am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 11.00am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 11.30am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 12.00am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 12.30am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 1.00am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 1.30am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 2.00am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 2.30am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 3.00am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 3.30am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 4.00am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 4.30am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 5.00am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 5.30am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 6.00am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 6.30am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 7.00am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 7.30am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 8.00am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 8.30am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 9.00am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 9.30am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 10.00am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 10.30am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 11.00am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 11.30am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 12.00am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 12.30am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 1.00am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 1.30am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 2.00am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 2.30am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 3.00am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 3.30am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 4.00am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 4.30am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 5.00am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 5.30am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 6.00am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 6.30am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 7.00am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 7.30am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 8.00am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 8.30am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 9.00am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 9.30am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 10.00am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 10.30am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 11.00am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 11.30am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 12.00am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 12.30am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 1.00am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 1.30am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 2.00am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 2.30am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 3.00am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 3.30am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 4.00am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 4.30am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 5.00am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 5.30am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 6.00am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 6.30am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 7.00am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 7.30am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 8.00am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 8.30am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 9.00am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 9.30am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 10.00am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 10.30am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 11.00am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 11.30am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 12.00am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 12.30am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 1.00am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 1.30am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 2.00am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 2.30am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 3.00am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 3.30am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 4.00am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 4.30am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 5.00am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 5.30am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 6.00am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 6.30am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 7.00am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 7.30am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 8.00am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 8.30am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 9.00am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 9.30am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 10.00am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 10.30am Sky Sports (1) (2513) 11.00am Sky Sports (1) (251**



# SPORT

WEDNESDAY APRIL 1 1998

Run of one-day successes built on shrewd change of policy

## England's cup overflowing

FROM ALAN LEE  
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT  
IN BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS

ENGLAND'S cricket is in a state of acute frustration. The Test team, no longer subservient, regularly marches on the strongholds of the five-day game only to trip over the doorstep. At age-group and A-team level, results continue to suggest that the future is bright, while the one-day side is playing with such proficiency that if the World Cup was staged this May, rather than next, they would probably win it.

A year, though, may make no difference. Far from diminishing their prospects, indeed, time may enhance them, for Adam Hoolioake's team has speedily discovered a mutual identity. The familiarity that will come with a year of exposure can only be to their benefit.

The most impressive aspect of their win on Sunday was that they withstood a century from Brian Lara that would have devastated most teams and still won a tight match. Unless Lara is going to bat like this in every game, there is no good reason to doubt that England will now take the five-game Cable & Wireless series, which resumes at Kensington Oval today, when England are almost sure to be unchanged.

Since the last World Cup, which they approached in perfunctory, piecemeal style, England have made up for ten years of complacency in three. The method, of course, has been severe, a surgical separation of Test and one-day business.

On Sunday, West Indies, playing at home and with their entire workforce to choose from, picked nine of the men who completed the Antigua Test. England used only three — Stewart, Thorpe and Headley — and even changed their captain.

The dividing of the national captaincy still arouses strong feelings. In Australia, Mark Taylor is reportedly considering resignation because he has lost the one-day section of the job; he believes it to be bad for team harmony.

Hoolioake's original nomi-



Headley listens intently to advice offered by his dreadlocked caddie as the England players relax on the golf course in Barbados

nation to captain the one-day games on this tour was adamantly vetoed by two selectors and former captains — Mike Gatting and Graham Gooch — who plainly would not have stood for it in their day.

Michael Atherton, misguidedly accused of agitating for complete power, actually never ventured a view. His subsequent decision to stay on

under Hoolioake, having stood down as captain, says much for his team ethic, for he is most unlikely to get a game.

The new England policy countermands the conventional wisdom that the best players will excel at both codes. Eight of the one-day side have played Test cricket, but five cannot get into the strongest XI; instead of being shelved, though, their talents for the short game are being embraced and nurtured.

Mark Ealham is a case in point. Perhaps he should have played more Tests against Australia last summer. Per-

haps he will play more in future. But he will never be better than a fringe five-day member, whereas there is scarcely a one-day game he does not influence by his robust batting, tenacious outfielding and a bowling style that owes much to subtle changes of pace.

The same, and more, can be said of his Kent team-mate, Matthew Fleming. He has never been close to the Test side and still finds it difficult to believe he is an England player at all, but his contribution at this level is very similar to that of Ealham.

Slower balls are the life-blood of the successful one-day attack and, through Ealham, Dougie Brown, Fleming and Hoolioake, England are well served. At least five West Indies wickets on Sunday were taken with slower balls and a little such ingenuity against Lambert and Wallace, in the past two Tests, might have saved England time and energy.

It is hard to know quite how good a unit England have become this past year. Matches this summer against South Africa and Sri Lanka, the best one-day sides around, will be

more instructive. For now, they can only go on doing their thing.

Eight successive wins is a remarkable run in the banana-skin environment of one-day cricket. The sequence will surely end soon, but England have a side of such all-round depth, playing with such confidence, that it should barely check their stride.

**WEST INDIES** (from): B C Lara (captain), P A Wallace, G B Lambert, C L Hooper, S Chandernisingh, S C Williams, P V Simmons, J R Murray, R N Lewis, C E L Ambrose, C A Walsh, F A Ross, M D Sant.  
**ENGLAND** (probable): A J Hoolioake (captain), M V Fleming, A J Stewart, B C Headley, G A Hirst, G P Thorpe, M A Ealham, M V Fleming, D R Brown, R D B Croft, D W Headley.

## Ajax prepare £5m move for Kinkladze

BY DAVID MADDOCK

GEORGI KINKLADZE appears to have come to the end of his romance with Manchester City. The Georgia international flew from Manchester airport yesterday for a meeting with Ajax of Amsterdam.

Officials at the Dutch club confirmed last night that they had held preliminary talks with the player and that they were negotiating with Manchester City over the terms of a possible £5 million transfer.

"Our chairman, Michael van Praag, met the vice-president for a business meeting," a spokesman said. "They are the two people responsible for deciding on finance for transfers."

Although Joe Royle, the City manager, is keen to sell the midfielder, the news will still come as a shock to the club's supporters, who have idolised Kinkladze during his three-year spell at the club. He has mesmerised dribbling skills, but his detractors point to a lack of goals and the fact that he seems to go missing in most matches, even if he does dazzle in high-profile games.

Royle will be glad of the transfer fee for Kinkladze as he embarks on a rebuilding programme at Maine Road, one that is desperately needed with the club languishing near the bottom of the Nationwide League first division. City paid Dynamo Tbilisi only £500,000 for the Georgian in July 1995 and, if Ajax do eventually part with £5 million for his services, the profits will be offered to Royle as transfer funds.

The Football Association has charged Barnsley and Everton with offences after incidents during their matches on Saturday involving supporters charging on to the pitch. However, the two teams are likely to escape severe punishment.

Under Rule 24 of FA regulations, clubs are held to be responsible for the conduct of their spectators and for any encroachment on to pitch areas. At Barnsley, supporters invaded the pitch on three occasions during the course of a controversial 3-2 defeat by Liverpool. Two individuals were prevented from attacking Gary Willard, the referee, only by the quick thinking of Jan Aage Fjortoft, the Barnsley striker, and Paul Ince, the Liverpool captain. Liverpool supporters also invaded the pitch when Steve McMan-

man scored a dramatic winning goal in the final minute. Three Barnsley players were sent off during the game at Oakwell.

At Everton, a single spectator ran on to the pitch to protest about a penalty awarded by Neale Barry, the referee, but was apprehended by Dwight Yorke, of Aston Villa and led from the ground. Everton lost the match 4-1, their heaviest defeat of the season.

John Dennis, the Barnsley chairman, asked last night for leniency from the FA, pointing to the prompt action of officials and good record of his club. "It comes as no great surprise that we have been charged, it is a sad day for everyone connected to Barnsley," he said.

Barnsley have banned indefinitely all spectators caught running on to the pitch and have appealed for restraint



Kinkladze: talented

from their supporters in their remaining home matches.

Everton have banned the spectator who ran on to the field of play at Goodison Park and dismissed the steward who was policing the area of the ground from which he ran. "We are confident that when the FA hears our version of events, they will see that we have taken suitable precautions to prevent the situation happening again," Michael Dunford, the club secretary, said.

Both clubs could be docked points for the behaviour of their supporters, but it is likely that they will instead be fined and warned about their future conduct, even though Everton were warned a year ago when a supporter ran on to the pitch during their game with Arsenal.

**TIMES TWO CROSSWORD**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8		9				
10		11				
13			14		15	
17	18			19	20	
22			23			
	24					

No 1368

**ACROSS**

- 1 Self respect (Fr.) (5,6)
- 8 Camb. college; two Bible books (5)
- 9 In angry way (7)
- 10 (Arch. of) York; a handi-cap race (4)
- 11 1815 victory (8)
- 13 Background, locale (6)
- 14 Killed (by mob); high on pot (6)
- 17 Melbourne state (8)
- 19 Stone particles; courage (4)
- 22 Pornography (7)
- 23 Rental agreement (5)
- 24 The Dominicans (5,6)

**DOWN**

- 1 Leg/foot joint (5)
- 2 Damaging blunder (3,4)
- 3 Hazard (4)
- 4 Of human types (6)
- 5 Character, possession (8)
- 6 Artist's stand (5)
- 7 Famous representative, example (6)
- 12 Speedwell; a cloth, a pass (8)
- 13 The films (US) (6)
- 15 Buddhist nothingness (7)
- 16 Act of air piracy (6)
- 18 (Southern) valley, hollow (5)
- 20 Lock of hair (5)
- 21 Indistinct sight (4)

**SOLUTION TO NO 1367**

- ACROSS:** 1 Scum 3 Dragoman 8 Infidel 10 Rural 11 Mud-slinging 13 Hiding 15 Snaith 17 Countenance 20 Argon  
21 Patriot 22 Honey-bee 23 Chin  
**DOWN:** 1 Skirmish 2 United 4 Relent 5 Gordian knot 6 Mr Right 7 Nile 9 Delinquency 12 Threaten 14 Decagon 16 Steppe 18 Neigh 19 Gash

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## Goal twins peaking for Juventus

FROM OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT, IN MILAN

AS MANCHESTER United kick their heels at home and await the next stage of their faltering challenge for the FA Carling Premiership, the scourges of the English champions, both past and present, step up the competition tonight for the prize that Alex Ferguson and his team desire more than any other.

In the wake of United's premature exit at the hands of AS Monaco in the quarter-finals a fortnight ago, the new favourites for the European Cup, Juventus, will begin their bid to reach the final for the third successive season when they entertain the Monegasques in the Stadio Delle Alpi tonight.

If the French champions were able to capitalise on United's injury problems this season, Juventus taught them a salutary lesson last season by outclassing them at home and away. In this campaign, after a shaky start when they lost to United at Old Trafford and raised English hopes in the process, they are showing signs of peaking at the right time.

Sitting atop Serie A, a hair's breadth ahead of Internazionale and Lazio, Juventus go into the match tonight with the psychological boost of

having beaten their fallen rivals, AC Milan, 4-1 on Saturday. With Alessandro del Piero and Filippo Inzaghi, the "goal twins" who are the top scorers in the competition, in blistering form, they may overwhelm Monaco.

Juventus in this form will be a different proposition to the underdog United side that Monaco vanquished. The French champions will also be at a disadvantage because of the absence through suspension of their Scotland midfielder player, John Collins. Suggestions that their coach, Jean



Del Piero: blistering form

Tigana, may leave them to take charge of the France national team after the World Cup are bound to have unsettled them, too.

Monaco have their own rival in Del Piero and Inzaghi in Thierry Henry, who has scored six goals in the competition, and he is likely to be partnered in attack by David Trezeguet, who scored the fine away goal that clinched their tie with United. Still, the odds are stacked against them.

Juventus have never been eliminated by French opponents in a European competition and, after their surprise defeat in the European Cup final last year, they are bristling with determination to win the trophy that many feel is theirs by right as the best team on the Continent. Gary Neville put United's achievement in beating them this season neatly into perspective. "You don't become the best by beating the best once," he said. In the other semi-final, though, Borussia Dortmund will be trying to prove that their win over Juventus in the final in Munich last season was more than a fluke. Despite miserable form in the

Bundesliga, in which they are mid-table, they overcame Bayern Munich to reach the semi-finals and now face Real Madrid.

Real are a formidable obstacle to their hopes of forcing a repeat of the final last year and the Spaniards' determination to forge ahead in the first leg in the Bernabeu Stadium tonight will be increased by the fact that they appear to have ceded supremacy in the Primera Liga to Barcelona.

The Catalan club, which had such a disastrous campaign in the Champions League, including defeat against Newcastle United, has moved clear in the domestic competition and such is the pressure for success in Spain that Real will have to win the European Cup if their season is not to be deemed a complete failure.

Dortmund, though, showed just what stubborn opponents they can be when they eliminated United in the semi-finals last season despite being outplayed for large sections of both matches. If they ride their luck again, they could find themselves lining up for that return against Juventus in the Amsterdam Arena on May 20.

## Italian police warn Chelsea supporters

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

ITALIAN police gave warning to Chelsea supporters yesterday to be on their best behaviour when the FA Cup and Coca-Cola Cup-holders take on Vicenza in the first leg of their Cup Winners' Cup semi-final tomorrow night. More than 1,000 police officers, backed by helicopters, will be waiting for the arrival of the 2,000 Chelsea fans expected to travel to Italy for the match.

"We will tolerate people being exuberant and we will be there to help the

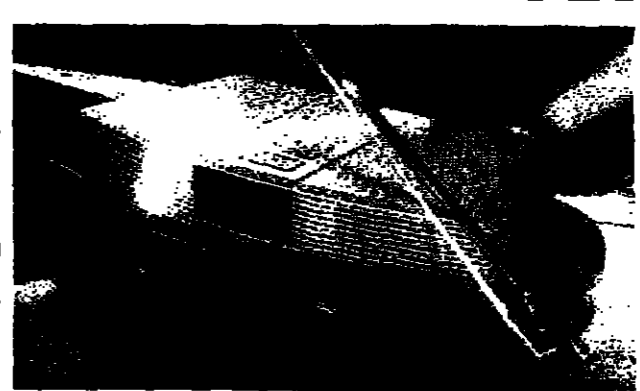
English fans in good spirit," an Italian police spokesman said. "If the situation started to degenerate beyond the limits laid down by the law and by common sense, we'll be ready to move in. We're hoping that we'll just be there to watch a great sporting event."

Police reinforcements are being drafted in from Florence, Milan, Bologna, Trieste and Padova to prepare for any trouble. City officials have already announced a ban on the sale of alcoholic drinks, which will come into force at midnight tonight. British police have given warning that up

to 700 known Chelsea troublemakers could travel to Italy without tickets.

The Italian approach has echoes of that for the Italy v England World Cup qualifying match in Rome last year, when heavy-handed tactics provoked criticism. It also follows the death of a Fulham supporter during disturbances after the Nationwide League second division match at Gillingham on Saturday and pitch invasions at FA Carling Premiership matches at Barnsley and Everton.

Leeds United drama, page 5



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